



Additional measures to be put in place

in the event of a fire in a private seniors' residence during evacuation and at the gathering point to prevent the spread of COVID-19

These measures also apply to intermediary resources (IR), family-type resources (FTR), and any other residential complex.

Please bear in mind that the public health measures related to COVID-19 remain a priority and must be applied.

Measures for IR-FTR operators and managers

In the context of a pandemic and of social distancing in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 during a fire evacuation, it is recommended to

- Maintain evacuation instructions already provided in the residence fire safety plan, if applicable.
- Ensure that existing means of escape (stairwells, hallways, etc.) are in good condition and unobstructed.
- Ensure that all doors used during an evacuation are in working order and are not locked.
- Evacuate, at the sound of the alarm, through the nearest door, maintaining a distance of 2 metres between occupants if possible.
- Move away from the building and proceed to the outside gathering point after the evacuation.
- Wait for help and follow the instructions of the responders, while maintaining a distance of 2 metres between people.
- Ensure that gathering places are available and that public health measures related to COVID-19 are respected by providing disinfection material at the gathering point and by asking evacuated residents and responders to disinfect their hands when they arrive at the gathering point.
- Review the security plan by, among other things, validating the list of agreements reached with external partners for the transportation, relocation, and reception of evacuees.
- Verify with municipalities and other external resources the availability of buildings normally used to relocate evacuees following a fire.
- Send an email message to external partners reminding them not to report for duty if they have symptoms.
- Suspend the Voisins secours program if weather conditions (cold, high winds, etc.) so permit.

Other measures for IR-FTR operators and managers

- Ensure that the residence's fire safety plans are up to date.
- Be vigilant in order to avoid certain fire hazards, notably by asking staff to do prevention work with residents (e.g., avoid using candles, auxiliary heating, etc.).
- Ask IR-FTR staff and managers to pay particular attention to potential fire hazards when they are required to move around the residence and to check common areas more frequently.

Measures for fire safety services

Before, during, and after each intervention

- Apply protocol and standard operating procedures or, depending on the situation, those for COVID-19.
- Apply public health measures related to COVID-19.
- Review the APSAM guidelines www.apsam.com/theme/risques-biologiques/covid-19-coronavirus
- and the specifications for firefighters: www.apsam.com/theme/risques-biologiques/covid-19-coronavirus/specifications-pour-les-premiers-repondants-pompiers

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