



# Topic: Fire in Public Places

*Fires in the workplace can happen at anytime. Fires occur in retail stores, restaurants, office buildings and more. When the alarm sounds you should take charge to ensure others safety.*

You're waiting on a customer and several other people are nearby when the fire alarm sounds. What should you do? Take each alarm seriously and assume there is a fire present. Your actions can calm customer fear, prevent panic, and result in an orderly evacuation.

In this situation, people will usually look for a leader to show them what to do. You should know how to give commands and direct people in a calm, authoritative voice.

Say, for example, "We have an alarm in the building. We are asking that you all move to the nearest exit. Follow me, please." Then lead them to the exit.

Don't think it can't happen. In one recent four-year period nearly 50,000 fires broke out in U.S. indoor public places, according to the *National Fire Protection Association*.

Public places include theaters, passenger terminals, amusement and recreation facilities, hospitals, courtrooms, churches, libraries, hotels and motels, stores, restaurants, and bars. Usually a fire is the last thing people are thinking of, so they need your help.



## **Prevention is better**

- ✚ The best way to make sure everyone is safe is not to have a fire in the first place. All businesses that serve the public should follow local fire code policies and make sure they have working sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers in place.
- ✚ Employees should know not to overload electrical outlets, and how to store flammable materials and dispose of trash properly in order to prevent fires.
- ✚ Fire exits should always be kept clear, and everyone should understand the fire alarm system.