



# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**CHARLES N. HOOD, FIRE CHIEF  
SAN ANTONIO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
315 SOUTH SANTA ROSA  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78207  
(210)207-8400 FAX (210) 207-8542**

Dear Property Owner,

The San Antonio Fire Department is currently in the process of conducting High-Rise Building Preplans throughout the city to better prepare us for high-rise emergency responses. High-rise buildings are very unique structures that often hold *hundreds* of occupants, and a fire can easily and quickly place their lives in jeopardy. These buildings require special firefighting techniques, a greater commitment of fire resources, and much more preparation to achieve a successful outcome. *All of us* have the same goal- no one in your building is injured, and property damage is kept to an absolute minimum.

There are several objectives with this city-wide Fire Department program: (1) gather the necessary *critical* information about each high-rise building which will help successfully mitigate an emergency response; (2) provide additional training for our fire companies on the complexities of high-rise buildings; (3) and educate property managers, owners, staff, and occupants about how the SAFD will respond and what actions we will take at your location.

A fire in a high-rise is a very dangerous situation. Fire growth can be *extremely rapid* depending on conditions. Additionally, the large volume of smoke produced inside the building will threaten occupants far removed from the fire. Smoke can quickly spread through floors, hallways, and stairwells and endanger *hundreds* of lives. One the nation's worst high-rise fires occurred in 1980 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas where 85 people perished. The national experience with high-rise fires tells us that even a small fire contained to one floor will require a three alarm response. This is 21 fire engines and ladder trucks responding to the fire building.

This program is *not* an inspection of your building! This is a collaborative and proactive effort between the Fire Department and property owners to increase our ability to safely resolve an emergency. Our fire companies *will work around your schedule*. Additionally, the High-Rise Building Program is *not* intended to be a financial burden for you. The financial cost to you should be limited to providing five copies of simple floor plans, and *possibly* providing additional keys as necessary.

We place great importance on preparation and ensuring that we can protect your occupants in an emergency. This program will help us better serve everyone in the event of a fire. Thank you very much for your support. Please feel free to contact my office at (210) 207-8400 if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief