

## **Rally Points – How Far Is Too Far?**

Most buildings and large apartment complexes haven't really spent time on the issue of developing Rally Points. Usually when people come out of the building or apartment complex, they're milling around and standing on the sidewalk directly in front of the building. This puts everyone in immediate hazard for not only any bad things going on in the building but they're now in the way of all the fire, police and emergency medical responders.

The minimum safe distance for a Primary Rally Point is 100 yards away from the building and everyone in your building has to know that this is their very first job – go to the rally point and check-in. Remember the primary job of a rally point is to account for all of your personnel. As soon as everyone meets at the rally point, attendance has to be taken and the message delivered to the building manager and emergency services so that we know everyone's accounted for. Think of the incredible gift you'll be giving the first responders in emergency services – "Everyone's out of the 10th floor," means that they don't have to waste precious time re-searching that part of your building.

You also need to have a Secondary Rally Point for everyone to move to if the primary rally point is untenable for some reason. It needs to be a good quarter of a mile away from your building with easy vehicle access. The secondary rally point is also far enough away so that it can act as a Reunification Center for all of the people coming out of your building that might not be allowed back in and who need a place to meet with their relatives and friends who are coming to pick them up. Plan now and make sure that all of your tenants have up to date attendance rosters and know exactly where your primary and secondary rally points are and have educated all of their personnel about how critical rally points are.

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