



Though I must now use a wheelchair, I still want to do as much traveling as physically possible. Recent news about a sudden hotel fire in the Philippine capital of Manila that killed 75 people frightens me. How can I prepare in case I'm forced to get to safety in a hurry.

*Mrs. WLA, Baltimore MD*

A: Now that you're not as mobile as you were in younger days, be alert to potential travel dangers at all times. When checking in to a hotel, get familiar with all the safety rules, including fire alarms and other warning systems.

Book a room on a lower floor, preferably close to the elevators and exit doors. Travel with a physically-fit companion who can help, especially if you must use the stairs. If you see fire or smell smoke in your room, have your smartphone close at all times to call the front desk and/or local fire department for help.