

Fire Safety



Tips to prevent fires and what to do if the worst should happen

Fire safety in flats

Fires do occur in flats and sadly fires in the home are a main cause of deaths. Your building has been designed or converted with fire safety in mind. Walls and doors between flats will hold back fire and smoke for a time but it is very important that you know what to do if a fire does break out in your flat and what action you can take to prevent fires.

What to do if a fire breaks out in your flat

- Alert any other person living in your flat.
- Leave the room where the fire is and close the door. If any windows are open in the room close them before you leave if it is safe.
- Don't try to tackle the fire unless it is safe to do so.
- Leave your flat and close the flat door behind you.
- Alert any neighbours to the fire but only if it is safe to do this.
- Get out of the building using the staircase.
- **Once you are out of the building call the fire brigade by dialling 999. Give them the address including the number of your flat and tell them which floor the fire is on.**
- Wait near your building for the fire brigade to arrive and then tell them where the fire is in your flat.

What to do if a fire breaks out in another part of the building

- If it is safe, leave the building and make sure you close your flat door behind you.

Once you are out of the building call the fire brigade by dialling 999.

- If you are unable to leave your flat due to smoke in the corridors or staircase, block the bottom of your flat door with wet towels. Move to a room with a window furthest away from the flat door and call the fire brigade

Fire safety in houses

Fires in the home are a main cause of deaths which is why it is important to know what to do if a fire does break out in your home and what action you can take to prevent fires.

What to do if a fire breaks out in your home

- Alert any other person living in your home.
- Leave the room where the fire is and close the door. If any windows are open in the room close them before you leave if it is safe.
- Don't try to tackle the fire unless it is safe to do so.
- Leave your house and close the door behind you.
- Alert any nearby neighbours to the fire but only if it is safe to do this.
- **Once you are out of the house call the fire brigade by dialling 999. Give them the address.**
- Wait near your home for the fire brigade to arrive and then tell them where the fire is in your house.

Smoke alarms

A smoke alarm is a warning device that detects

smoke at the early stages of a fire. It will send out a loud piercing noise to warn you about a possible fire. A smoke alarm would wake you up and give you time to get out of your flat.

Smoke alarms are fitted in your home. We know that smoke alarms save lives. You should test the alarm each week to make sure it is working properly. Smoke alarms are wired into the electricity supply and fitted with back up batteries. They should never be disconnected.

Tell us immediately if you think there is a problem with your smoke alarm and we will replace it.

Don't block your escape route

Flats

The communal stairs and landings where you live are the main escape route if there is a fire. To ensure that all residents can leave the building safely don't place or store any personal belongings in common areas. This includes meter cupboards, bin rooms or other areas that are not part of your flat. In your own flat do not block your hallway.

You share your building with other residents. Your safety and theirs depends on everyone co-operating and keeping escape routes clear and safe to use.

Houses

Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows the quickest way to get out of your home. To ensure that all your household can leave your

home don't block your hallway or other escape routes.

How to prevent fires

Here are some things that you can do to reduce the risk of a fire in your home and save your life and the lives of loved ones and neighbours:

- Never leave children alone.
- Keep matches and lighters safe and out of reach of children.
- Don't smoke in bed. Always finish your cigarette before going to bed and make sure it is stubbed out fully.
- Never leave candles unattended. Make sure candles are put out.
- Check everything is safe before going to bed.
- Switch off electric blankets when in bed and have them checked regularly.
- Avoid the use of chip pans if you can.
- Don't overfill pans and deep fat fryers. Never leave the pan without turning off the heat.
- If a pan or deep fat fryer catches fire turn off the heat and leave it for at least half an hour. Do not throw water over the pan. If your safety is at risk leave your home and call 999.

Problems understanding?

If you need any of our information translating or if you need an interpreter, please contact us. We can also provide this information in large print or on CD if you need us to.

- Check and clean tumble dryers or other electrical appliances.
- Do not overload electrical sockets or make alterations to the electrical supply to your home. Report any concerns to us about the electric supply.
- Do not carry out any alterations to you home without getting our permission first.

We would encourage all residents to arrange a free Home Fire Safety Check. This is a check that is carried out by the Fire Briggade. To arrange a check, contact the West Yorkshire and Rescue Services.

Book online: www.westyorkshirefire.gov.uk

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