

# **FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR YOUR HOME AND FAMILY**

## **Better to Stay Put**



# FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR YOUR HOME AND FAMILY

The easiest way to protect your home and family from fire is with a working smoke alarm.

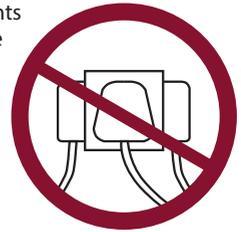
A smoke alarm can provide an early warning of a fire and allow you to make your escape - but only if it is working. You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire if you do not have a working smoke alarm.



- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms regularly.
- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

## You can prevent fire from happening by taking a few simple steps

- Don't leave cooking unattended, and avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone with cooking on the hob.
- Be especially vigilant when cooking with oil. Don't overfill chip pans and NEVER throw water on a chip pan fire.
- We would prefer you not to smoke in your flat (most tenancy agreements prohibit it) but if you do, make sure cigarettes are put out properly, use a proper ashtray and don't smoke in bed.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.
- Turn off appliances when not in use.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children.
- Avoid using candles - battery powered LED versions now give a similar lighting effect. If you use candles make sure they are secured in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire - like curtains. Children should never be left alone with lit candles.
- Do not use BBQs, chiminea or patio heaters on balconies or enclosed terraces.



## Hot works

If you or a tradesman need to carry out hot works within your flat e.g. soldering copper pipes, then you must contact Neil Douglas in advance to apply for a Hot Works Permit. This will help us manage the risk of fire associated with hot works activities.

## Ensuring your smoke alarms are effective

If your home is not already provided with smoke alarms, fit one in your entrance hallway (and landing of any upper or lower floor). For even better protection, fit one in your lounge and fit a heat detector in your kitchen. Make sure your smoke and heat alarms meet British and European standards. If you fit more than one, link them together so they all sound the alarm. Get an electrician to fit mains-powered devices, and buy models that have a standby battery power supply in case of mains failure.

# THE FIRE ACTION PLAN FOR YOUR BLOCK

## Stay put or leave your flat?

Your flat is in a building designed to be fire-resisting. As such a fire should not spread from one flat to another, so you need not leave your home if there is a fire elsewhere in the block. On that basis the fire procedure for your block is a stay put policy. Only the residents of the flat where the fire breaks out are expected to evacuate.



**However, if in doubt get out.**

**Always leave if your flat is affected by smoke or heat or you are told to do so by the fire service.**

## Designed for your safety

A stay-put policy relies on the fabric of the building being constructed with a high level of fire resistance or separation; this includes the main door to your flat. This creates fire resistant “compartments” that will help prevent fire spread from one flat to another. The fire doors between the stairs and landings further prevent the spread of fire in common areas. It is important that these doors are kept closed at all times and are never propped open. If you see a fire door left open then please shut it.

If there is a fire in another part of the block the safest place for you and your family is usually in your own flat; you need not be made aware of a fire in the common areas or in another flat. Therefore fire alarms in the common areas are not generally required, although may be present.

Fire extinguishers in common areas are usually not required - if the fire is in your flat, you would have to go to the relative safety of the common area to get a fire extinguisher and then place yourself in danger by re-entering your flat to fight the fire.

## Keep safe - plan your escape

The common stairway is designed to be safe for escape throughout the course of a fire. Always use the stairway, not the lift (if there is one), to descend to ground level if escaping.

**DO NOT** leave your belongings or rubbish in corridors or stairway. This could affect you and your neighbours if there was a fire.

### Remember:

- Test your smoke alarm once a week
- Keep the exit route from your flat clear so you can escape in an emergency
- Close doors at night, especially the doors to the lounge and kitchen to prevent fire spreading
- Plan your escape NOW. Be prepared and don't wait until it happens



## If fire breaks out in your home

- Leave the room where the fire is immediately, closing the door as you go.
- Alert everyone in your home and get them to leave immediately closing the front door of your flat behind you.
- Do not stay behind to put the fire out.
- Always use the stairway; don't be tempted to use the lift (if there is one).
- Call the Fire Service on 999 or 112.
- When the operator answers, give your telephone number and ask for FIRE.
- When the fire service reply give the address where the fire is.
- Do not end the call until the fire service has repeated the address correctly.
- Wait outside, away from the building.



## If fire breaks out in another part of the block

- If you are in a corridor, lift lobby or stairway and you notice a fire, leave the building immediately.
- If safe to do so, alert other residents in the immediate vicinity on your way out (knock on doors).
- Call the Fire Service on 999 or 112.
- When the operator answers, give your telephone number and ask for FIRE.
- When the fire service reply give the address where the fire is.
- Do not end the call until the fire service has repeated the address correctly.
- Wait outside, away from the building.

**Do not put yourself at risk. Do not return to your flat until it is safe to do so.**

This advice is based on guidance provided in the publication 'Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats' published by the Local Government Group.

Please contact Neil Douglas if you have any questions or queries about this advice.