



Fire safety in the home

Know the risks

TOP CAUSES OF FIRES IN HOMES



SMOKING Page 3



COOKING Page 5



CANDLES/HEATING Pages 8 and 9



ELECTRICS Page 11

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Keeping you and your home safe from fire

FIT ALARMS AND TEST THEM MONTHLY



Working alarms are essential as they provide vital early warning and allow extra time to escape. They may also alert neighbours to a possible fire.

For tips about choosing and fitting alarms go to page 19

HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS



London Fire Brigade (LFB) offers free home fire safety visits to all residents, where officers will provide fire safety advice suited to the individual's needs and home. We can fit smoke alarms, if required, and specialist alarms for people with visual or hearing impairments.

Go to page 34 for more info

A fire can start in any room and the effects can be devastating. Taking some simple precautions can prevent fires from happening and make you and anyone else in your home a lot safer.

BE PREPARED BY MAKING AN ESCAPE PLAN



Make sure you know what to do if you have a fire. Make an escape plan and consider anyone who may need help to escape. Share this with everyone in your household including elderly relatives and young children. Remember to practise it regularly.

Get tips for your plan on page 22

DO YOU LIVE IN A PURPOSE-BUILT MAISONETTE OR BLOCK OF FLATS?



Your plan needs to be different.

If the fire is in your flat get out, stay out and call 999. If there is a fire elsewhere in the building you are usually safer staying in your own flat unless heat or smoke is directly affecting you or you have been told to leave by a firefighter.

Find out more on page 25

Smoking



Never smoke in bed.



TOP TIP
Put it out, right out.

The fires caused by smoking (including cigarettes, roll-ups, cigars and pipe tobacco) result in more deaths than any other type of fire.

PREVENT SMOKING RELATED FIRES

- It is safer to smoke outside but make sure cigarettes are put right out and disposed of properly.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't smoke in an armchair or sofa if you think you may fall asleep.
- Take extra care when you're tired, taking prescription drugs or if you've been drinking alcohol.
- Use proper ashtrays which can't tip over and stub cigarettes out properly.
- Never balance cigars or cigarettes on the edge of an ashtray or anything else; they can fall and cause a fire.
- Don't leave lit pipes or cigarettes unattended.
- Empty ashtrays carefully. Make sure smoking materials are out, cold and preferably wet them before throwing into a bin – never use a wastepaper basket.
- Don't smoke counterfeit cigarettes they can cause fires because of the way they are made.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach, and buy child-resistant lighters.
- Never smoke if you use medical oxygen or an air flow pressure relief mattress.
- If you use paraffin-based emollient creams, ask for non-flammable alternatives instead.
- Consider additional safety measures such as fire retardant bedding or nightwear.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Use of electronic cigarettes has increased in recent years, they are safer to use as long as the manufacturers' instructions are followed.

- Use only the battery and charger that's provided with the e-cigarette.
- Avoid leaving an e-cigarette on charge overnight.
- Never use a damaged e-cigarette.
- Never use e-cigarettes close to medical oxygen.

Remember

If you need advice or help to quit smoking contact: Smokefree National Helpline on: 0800 022 4332 or visit: www.nhs.uk/smokefree/help-and-advice/support

Cooking



Don't cook if you've been drinking.



Never leave cooking unattended.

More fires and fire injuries are caused by carelessness in the kitchen than anywhere else in the home.

Heat alarms fitted in kitchens can detect the increase in temperature caused by a fire but will not be set off by cooking fumes.

PREVENT COOKING FIRES

- Fit a heat alarm and test it monthly.
- Avoid leaving cooking unattended.
If you have to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, it's safer to take pans off the heat and turn off the hob and/or grill.
- Don't cook if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or taking medication that might make you drowsy.
- Loose clothing can easily catch fire – take care not to lean over a hot hob and keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Keep the oven, hob, cooker hood and grill clean, and in good working order. A build up of fat and grease can ignite and cause a fire.
- Use spark devices to light gas cookers.
- Double check the cooker and hob are turned off when you've finished cooking.
- Check toasters are clean and not placed under kitchen cabinets or close to anything that can catch fire.
- Never put anything metal in the microwave.
- Supervise children (and pets) in the kitchen at all times. Put matches away and keep saucepan handles out of their reach.



This is what happens when you pour just a small amount of water onto a pan of hot oil that has caught fire. In an instant the blaze explodes into a fireball.

IF A PAN CATCHES FIRE

- Don't tackle the fire yourself and don't attempt to move the pan.
- Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so.
- Never throw water over a fire as it could create a fireball.
- Leave the room, close the door, shout a warning to others and call the fire brigade by dialling 999.

DEEP FAT FRYING

- Take extra care when cooking with hot oil as it can easily overheat and catch fire.
- Never fill a pan more than one third full of fat or oil.
- Make sure food is dry before putting in hot oil.
- If the oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- Use an electronic deep fat fryer if possible – they have automatic temperature controls.

OUTDOOR COOKING

- Never use a barbecue (BBQ) including disposable, indoors or on a balcony.
- Position your BBQ on level ground and keep it well away from anything that may catch fire (sheds, fences, trees, tents etc.).
- Never use petrol, paraffin or biofuel to get the BBQ going or revive it.
- Never take a BBQ into a tent, awning, caravan or motorhome. Even when cooling it will give off poisonous carbon monoxide fumes which can kill.

Candles and naked flames



The Brigade regularly attends fires caused by candles, incense and oil burners.

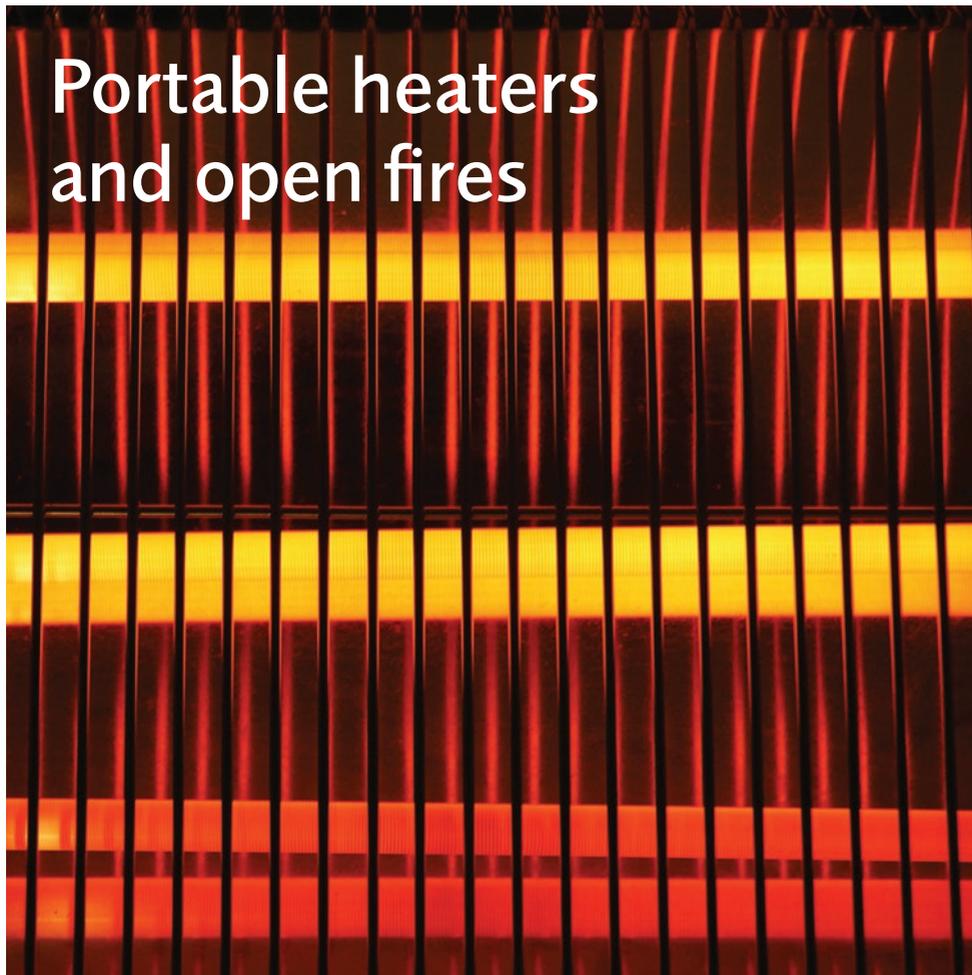
ALWAYS FOLLOW THIS ADVICE

- Make sure you put out any candles, incense and oil burners when you leave the room and especially before bed.
- These items should always be held firmly in heat resistant holders and placed on a stable surface.
- Keep them away from materials that may catch fire such as curtains, furniture, clothes.
- Tea lights get very hot and without proper holders can melt through plastic surfaces like a TV or bath.
- To avoid accidents keep candles and other naked flames out of reach of children and pets.

CELEBRATE SAFELY

- Take extra care when celebrating events such as Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas. Fancy dress costumes and decorations can easily catch fire; make sure they are kept away from naked flames. Always check that costumes or face masks are fire retardant in accordance to European standard EN71-2.

Portable heaters and open fires



Keep heaters away from clothes, curtains and furniture.



Use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers.

Heaters placed too close to flammable materials cause fires, burns and deaths every year.

PORTABLE HEATERS AND FIRES

- Secure heaters against a wall to stop them falling over, or fit wall-mounted heaters.
- Keep heaters well away from clothes, curtains and furniture and never use them for drying clothes.
- Always sit at least one metre away from a heater as it could set light to your clothes or chair.
- Before moving your heater, turn it off and allow it to cool first.
- Gas heater cylinders should be changed in the open air, if you have to change them indoors open the windows and doors.
- Store spare propane or oxygen cylinders upright and outside whenever possible. Never store them in basements, under stairs or in cupboards containing electric meters or equipment.
- Make sure that all empty cylinders are collected regularly.
- Fireboxes and containers should always be placed on a stable surface. When using biofuel always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions.
- Don't overstock fuels of any type and store them safely.
- Never add fuel to a burning fire, or refill a firebox fuel container that is still hot.

OPEN FIRES AND LOG BURNERS

- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained. Always have your chimney swept by a specialist (at least once a year for coal, twice if burning logs).
 - Make sure you use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers.
 - Before you go to bed, make sure fires or hot embers are under control and guarded.
 - Store logs away from solid fuel burners. Radiated heat can cause them to burn.
- To find a certified chimney sweep, or for more information on chimney fire safety, please visit:
- National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS)
 - Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps
 - Association of Professional Independent Chimney Sweeps (APICS)

Remember

Fit a carbon monoxide alarm in all rooms containing solid fuel, gas or paraffin heaters. See page 15.

Electrics



Don't overload plug sockets. Keep to one plug per socket.

5 + 5 + 3 = 13
AMP AMP AMP AMP

TOP TIP: Know the limit!

1 British Standards safety mark.

2 European safety mark.

Electrical fires are common, but many can be easily avoided.

Scorch marks, flickering lights, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow or circuit-breakers that trip for no obvious reasons could all be signs of loose or dangerous wiring. If in doubt get them checked by a qualified electrician.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

- Make sure electrical appliances have a British or European safety mark when you buy them.
- Keep electrical appliances clean and in good working order.
- Empty fluff regularly from tumble dryers in line with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Hair straighteners get extremely hot. Always switch them off and leave them to cool on a heatproof surface.
- Keep to one plug per socket. High powered appliances such as washing machines, should have a single socket to themselves.
- Always check that you're using the right fuse, typical examples include:
 - 3A fuse** – Table lamp, television, computer, blender, fridge, freezer.
 - 13A fuse** – Washing machine, dishwasher, microwave, kettle, toaster, iron.
- If you have to use an adaptor, use a fused 'in line' type but don't overload it by adding extra plug-in adaptors or using high current appliances such as electric heaters. Know the limits.
- Cable drum extension leads should be completely unwound to avoid overheating.

Remember

In the event of a power cut call 105 – It's free of charge and will put you through to your local electricity network operator who can give you help and advice.

If you or someone you know may need extra support during a power cut go to: www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/priority-services-during-a-power-cut/ to register details.



BATTERY AND CHARGING SAFETY

Re-chargeable batteries when used safely power millions of devices every day such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets and mobility scooters. However batteries can present a fire risk when over-charged, short-circuited, submerged in water or if their cases are damaged. Follow these safety tips when charging your devices.

- Always use the charger that came with your phone, tablet, e-cigarette or mobile device or a genuine replacement. Counterfeit electrical chargers can be deadly, and many fail to meet UK safety regulations leading to fires and injury.
- Don't leave items continuously on charge (after the charge cycle is complete).
- Avoid storing, using or charging batteries in extremes of high or low temperatures.
- Protect batteries against being damaged, crushed or punctured and don't immerse in water.
- Do not cover devices in use, or batteries that are on charge, in case of over heating.
- When you travel, avoid keeping all your items containing re-chargeable batteries together, especially on a plane. Check with your flight carrier for additional information or advice.



PRODUCT RECALLS

Faulty electrical goods can cause fires. If you are concerned about the safety of a product, stop using it and make your concern known to the retailer, manufacturer or your local Trading Standards office.

A list of recalled products is available through the LFB website: www.london-fire.gov.uk/product-recalls.asp

- Take extra care with second-hand appliances, ensure they have been safety checked and are not listed on the product recall register.
- Always ensure new appliances are registered so that manufacturers can contact you in the event of any problems. Go to: www.registermyappliance.org.uk for more information and to register your electrical products.

USING AN ELECTRIC BLANKET

- Never use an electric blanket if you have an air flow pressure relief mattress, or use paraffin based emollient creams. Ask for non-flammable creams instead.
- Store electric blankets flat, rolled up or loosely folded to prevent damaging the internal wiring.
- Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Do not buy second-hand electric blankets.
- Check regularly for wear and tear and replace your electric blanket every 10 years.

Having trouble paying your energy bills?

If you're struggling to afford your gas and electricity bills, contact your supplier for help and advice. Don't use candles and naked flames as a substitute for lighting and heating.

Carbon monoxide



Make sure appliances are installed and maintained by a professional.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer – the fumes are highly poisonous and cause around 50 deaths and hundreds of injuries every year.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING SYMPTOMS

Poisoning from CO can happen in a matter of minutes or over an extended period of time depending on the amount of CO in

the air. You cannot taste, see or smell CO fumes but they are extremely dangerous.

Symptoms can include:



WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Symptoms only occur when you are in your home and disappear or get better when you leave.
- Others in your home are experiencing similar symptoms (including your pets).
- Black, sooty marks on the front covers of gas fires.
- Sooty or yellow/brown stains on or around boilers, stoves or fires.
- If you get any symptoms when appliances are in use, eg; when the boiler is on.
- Increased condensation on the windows.
- Pilot lights frequently blowing out.
- Yellow instead of blue flames coming from gas appliances or flames are not fully formed (e.g. if flame isn't all the way round on a gas hob burner).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

If you suspect CO poisoning or if your CO alarm sounds:

- Open doors and windows to ventilate (if possible).
- If you are able to do so safely, switch off the appliance.
- Get outside into the fresh air quickly.
- Seek immediate medical advice. See your doctor or go to hospital – let them know that you suspect CO poisoning, they can do a blood or breath test to check.

Before you return to your home it is very important to call the **gas emergency number on 0800 111 999** and tell them what has happened. You may need an engineer to inspect your appliances and flues to check if there is a dangerous problem.

For further information please visit:

The Health and Safety Executive website:
www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/



Fit a CO alarm for protection against carbon monoxide poisoning.

TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

- Fit a CO alarm. These can be bought from DIY stores and some supermarkets, or directly from energy suppliers.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how and where to fit.
- Remember to test it every month.
- Make sure appliances are installed and regularly maintained by a professional.
- Ensure your home has enough ventilation and airbricks are not blocked.
- Keep chimney flues free from blockages.
- Never use a purpose-built or disposable barbecue indoors as they can give off CO fumes for several hours after use.
- Only buy alarms marked with the current British Standards BS EN 50291.
- Private rental sector landlords are bound by law to install one CO alarm in any room that contains a solid fuel burning appliance.

INSTALLING AND SERVICING APPLIANCES

CO is produced by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels. This can happen when gas appliances such as gas cookers, heaters, gas fires or solid fuel burners have been incorrectly fitted or poorly maintained. It can also occur if flues, chimneys or vents are blocked in your own home or those of any neighbouring properties.

- Make sure chimneys are swept regularly by a qualified sweep. For more information

go to the 'open fires and log burners' section.

- Never attempt to install, repair or service appliances yourself. Make sure anyone who does is registered with a relevant association, such as the:
 - Gas Safe Register (for gas appliances)
 - Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme (HETAS) (for solid fuel appliances)
 - Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) (for oil appliances)

Did you know?

If you purchase a free standing CO alarm you can take it with you when you go on holidays.

Alarms



It's better to prevent a fire from happening, but fitting alarms will provide an early warning in the event of a fire and allow vital extra time to escape.

CHOOSING AND FITTING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke and heat alarms are easy to install. They are available from most DIY and high street supermarkets.

- Fit at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, and in any room where a fire could start.
- Keep smoke alarms away from kitchens or bathrooms as steam can set them off by mistake.
- Fit a heat alarm in the kitchen. This will

detect the increase in temperature caused by a fire but will not be set off by cooking fumes.

- Choose smoke alarms with a 10 year or long-lasting sealed battery.
- Make sure any alarms you buy are marked with a British Standards or European (CE) safety mark.
- Always follow the manufacturers fitting instructions. Poorly sited alarms may cause lots of false alarms.

MAKING SURE YOUR ALARMS WORK

Fitting alarms save lives, but only if they are working. Test yours every month. It's as simple as pushing the button.

- Change the battery if it starts to bleep on a regular basis.

- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your alarms if they go off by mistake.
- Some alarms are fitted with 10 year or long-lasting sealed batteries, these should not be removed or replaced as doing so will damage the alarms beyond repair.



Test your alarms every month. It's as simple as pushing the button.

SPECIALIST ALARMS

Where a person has any conditions that may prevent or delay their escape, specialist alarms can be fitted.

- Strobe light and vibrating pad alarms are available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information contact: Action on Hearing Loss Information Line on 0808 808 0123 or textphone 0808 808 9000.
- Where a telecare monitoring system is fitted, this should be linked to all alarms and sensors in the property.
- Wherever possible fit interlinked alarms throughout your property so that when one alarm detects a fire they all go off together. This will give everyone in your home the earliest warning of fire.
- Mains powered alarms, should be installed by a qualified electrician.

In some circumstances sprinklers or water misting systems may be needed; seek specialist advice from LFB or BAFSA. www.bafsa.org.uk

Disposal of smoke alarms

Smoke alarms fall under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. When the time comes to dispose of your alarm you should

take it to your local civic amenity site (rubbish or re-cycling centre) and place it in the section for WEEE which should be clearly marked.

Escape



Make an escape plan and practise it regularly to make sure everyone knows how to get out safely.

MAKING AN ESCAPE PLAN

- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Wherever possible, plan a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise it regularly.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone you live with can find them.
- Ensure security gates can be easily opened from the inside without the need for a key.
- If anyone in the home is slow to react or has mobility issues, adapt the plan to suit their needs.
- Mobility aids and any methods of calling for help should always be kept close to hand (eg mobile phone/link alarm or pendant).
- Make sure the way in and out of your home is kept clear of anything that may slow down or block your escape. This includes white goods such as freezers.
- Review your plan if your circumstances change. If you need support or advice with this, contact LFB.



Make sure everyone that lives in the house knows the escape plan.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A FIRE IN YOUR HOME

- If any of your smoke alarms go off, never assume it is a false alarm.
- Shout 'FIRE' to alert others in the home.
- Don't waste time investigating what's happened or rescuing valuables.
- Don't tackle fires yourself, many people are injured this way. Leave it to the professionals.
- Keep calm and get out, closing doors behind you to slow down the spread of fire and smoke.
- Before you open a door check if it's warm with the back of your hand. If it is, don't open it, there may be a fire on the other side.
- If there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
- Call 999 as soon as it is safe to do so – 999 calls are free.
- Never go back into the building once you are safely outside.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR ESCAPE IS BLOCKED

- If you can't get out, find a safe room away from fire, ideally one with a window that opens and access to a phone.
- Close the door and put bedding or any soft materials around the bottom of the door to block the smoke, then open the window and shout "HELP, FIRE". If you have a phone with you, call 999 and ask for the fire brigade. Be ready to describe where you are and the quickest way to reach you.
- If you're on the ground or first floor, you may be able to escape through a window. Use soft materials to cushion your fall and lower yourself down carefully. Don't jump.

Did you know?

If you cannot make voice calls, you can contact the 999 emergency services by SMS text from your mobile phone. You will only be able to use this service if you have registered with emergency SMS first. **Text 'register' to 999.** You will get a reply – then follow the instructions you are sent.

Extra advice for purpose-built maisonnettes or blocks of flats



Follow this advice if you live in a purpose-built maisonette or block of flats, of any height, with shared communal corridors, external walkways, staircases or entrances.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

If there is a fire or smoke inside your maisonette or flat and your escape route is clear:

- Get everyone out, close the door and walk as calmly as possible out of the building.
- Do not use the lift.
- Call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your maisonette or flat but your escape route is NOT clear:

- It may be safer to stay in your maisonette or flat until the fire brigade arrives.
- Close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke.
- Go to a window and call for help. Dial 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire in another part of the building but not inside your maisonette or flat:

- Purpose-built maisonettes or blocks of flats are built to give you some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames and smoke for a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes.
- If you are in your flat, you are usually safer staying there unless heat or smoke is affecting you. Stay put and call 999. Tell the fire brigade where you are and the best way to reach you.
- If you are within the communal areas of the building, leave and call 999.



CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF YOUR PLAN:

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home, on a ceiling, or high up on a wall – if the instructions state they are suitable for wall mounting. Make sure you include every room where a fire could start.
- Know the fire escape plan for your building. Talk to your housing officer or landlord if you are unsure.
- Make sure everyone you live with knows how to raise the alarm in the event of a fire.
- Communal staircases, corridors and balconies should be kept clear of anything that may block your escape such as prams, bicycles or mobility scooters.
- Household rubbish should always be taken to the refuse area immediately and not left in communal areas.
- It is easy to get confused if it is dark or smoky so it's important to know your route out of the building using the exit stairs. Count the number of doors you need to go through or use familiar objects to guide you to help with your escape in the event of a fire.
- Your home may be provided with an alternative escape route. Always make sure it is kept clear and you can access it at any time.

Rented accommodation



People living in rented or shared accommodation are seven times more likely to have a fire.

YOUR LANDLORD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Your landlord has certain responsibilities and should tell you everything related to the building which may affect your safety.

New regulations mean all landlords are bound by law to:

- Install one smoke alarm on each storey of your rental property.
- Install one CO alarm in any room that contains a solid fuel burning appliance.
- Test each alarm at the beginning of the tenancy.

They should also:

- Ensure all gas and electric appliances supplied are safe and in good working order.
- Show you safety certificates so you know when gas and electrical appliances (that they supply) were last checked.
- Get gas appliances checked by a Gas Safe registered gas fitter every year.
- Make sure that furniture and furnishings provided by them are fire resistant and meet safety regulations.

If you live in maisonettes or flats of any height, your landlord should also:

- Supply you with a fire safety action plan and advice on the fire risk assessment for your building. This should include fire procedures and evacuation information.
- Provide you with fire-resisting and self-closing front doors, alarms inside your home (smoke and CO) and emergency lighting in the common parts if needed.
- Ensure that escape routes are clearly marked with enough signs so that anyone in the building will know what to do if there is a fire.
- Control parking around your building to allow easy access for fire engines.
- Place signage with clear instruction in and around lifts to explain what to do if there is a fire.
- Ensure that rubbish stores are locked at all times.
- Keep shared stairs, corridors and landings free of any clutter.
- Supply you with details of any changes to the fire plan after any building works.

As a tenant, you also have responsibilities to help reduce the likelihood of a fire happening.



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- You should follow advice in this booklet on how to prevent fires in the home.
- You are personally responsible for making sure that any alarms within your property are working throughout the term of your tenancy, remember to test them all monthly.
- Make sure your fire doors are maintained and close them before you go to bed at night.

Bedtime check



Close inside doors at night.



Check your cooker is turned off.



Turn off and unplug electrical appliances.

Many fire deaths happen at night, when most people are sleeping. You can further reduce your risk by carrying out some simple checks before you go to bed.

BEDTIME CHECK

- A closed door can help to stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms, giving you and your family more time to escape.
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on – like your fridge or freezer.
- Don't leave the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher switched on.
- Don't leave mobile phones, tablets or e-cigarettes charging overnight.
- Check your cooker is turned off.
- Turn heaters off, rake out fires and put a fire guard in place.
- Put candles, incense sticks and oil burners out and never leave them burning when you are asleep.
- Make sure cigarettes are completely out. It's best to wet them to be sure.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Escape routes should be kept clear of anything that may slow your escape down.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone you live with can find them.
- If you or anyone else in the home has mobility issues, ensure mobility aids and methods of calling for help are close to hand (eg; link line pendants) in case they are needed to assist with an escape.

Clothes on fire



STOP



DROP



AND ROLL

If someone's clothes have caught fire, get them to stop, drop and roll, then smother the flames with a heavy material, like a coat or blanket.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE

- Don't run around, you'll make the flames worse.
- Lie down and roll around. It makes it harder for the flames to spread.

Home fire safety visits



You are far less likely to have a fire in your home if you have a home fire safety visit.

RISK FACTORS

We want to ensure that anyone who may have increased fire risks are provided with appropriate protection (eg; fitting of smoke alarms), prevention and escape advice to help them maintain their safety, independence and quality of life.

We have identified that there are a number of health and lifestyle behaviours that increase the likelihood of being involved in a fire.

If you know or work directly with anyone who has any combination of the following risk factors below; please give them our details to arrange for a free home fire safety visit or alternatively ask them if they would prefer you to make the referral on their behalf.

This checklist gives you some examples of the types of risks to look out for but it is not an exhaustive list. If you are unsure or have any fire safety concerns please contact LFB for extra advice.

INCREASED FIRE RISK:

- Smoking.
- Hoarding of any kind.
- Electrical sockets are overloaded or there are signs of unsafe wiring.
- Unsafe use of candles or naked flames.
- Cooking is often left unattended.
- There has been evidence of previous fires or near misses eg; burns or scorch marks from cigarettes, heaters or cooking.
- There have been incidents (or threats) of arson.

LESS ABLE TO REACT:

- The property has no working smoke alarms installed.
- Alcohol dependency or drug misuse (prescribed or recreational).
- Mental health conditions such as dementia or learning difficulties.
- Physical health issues including sensory impairments eg; hearing or sight.
- The property is not meant to be used for sleeping accommodation and fire safety features are either missing or have not been fitted eg; fire doors or alarms.

REDUCED ABILITY TO ESCAPE:

- Reduced mobility due to a physical disability, age-related problems or as a result of a long-term illness.
- Escape routes are not kept clear or are blocked due to actions such as hoarding.
- Conditions that affect decision making.



TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT

Freephone

0800 028 4428

Email

smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

Text /SMS

07860 021 319



london-fire.gov.uk



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE