FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Fire Safety Act 2021



FireSafety Act 2021 (Legislation.gov.uk) has been introduced in view of some of the recent serious domestic fires. BTC has sent out this brochure to ensure the safety of residents. **Please go through this brochure with your family members, including the children in the household.**

Fire Safety – What You Need to Do When the Smoke Alarm Sounds

Important things to know:

- The smoke and heat alarms are **linked together**. If an alarm goes off in one flat, it will sound in **all flats** and in the **communal areas**.
- The fire action plan is **FULL EVACUATION!**

If there is a fire **anywhere** in the building:

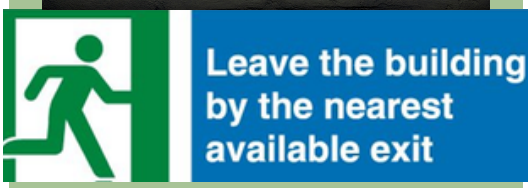


- Leave immediately
- Call **999**
- Stay outside until told it is safe to return.
- **Do not stay inside** to check where the fire is.
- **Get out and Stay out!**









False alarms:
If the alarm goes off by mistake, please:

Let your neighbours know as soon as possible.
Report it to the Maintenance Surveyor.

What to do in the event of fire

Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.

- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE IS BLOCKED



If you can't get out, get everyone into one room, ideally with a window and phone 999

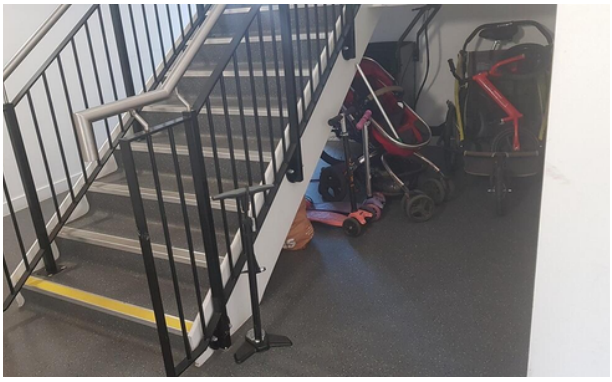
- Put bedding around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke.
- Call 999 then open the window and shout **"HELP FIRE".**
- If you're on the ground or first floor, you may be able to escape through a window.
- Use bedding to cushion your fall and lower yourself down carefully. Don't jump.
- If you can't open the window break the glass in the bottom corner. Make jagged edges safe with a towel or blanket.

Smoke alarms

Did you know that in London...



- You're four times more likely to die in a fire if you don't have a smoke alarm that works.
- Around half of home fires are caused by cooking accidents.
- Two fires a day are started by candles.
- Every six days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette.
- About two fires a day are started by heaters.
- Faulty electrics (appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets) cause around 6,000 fires in the home across the country every year.



Keep communal areas clear!

This includes corridors, internal and external stairs and exits into garden areas. These areas should be kept free of plants, bikes and buggies, shoes and bags of rubbish. Such items if caught alight can block escape routes, or hamper emergency evacuation or rescue. We agree that plants on stairs and in corridors do look nice, but residents must put safety first, not just for their family, but also for their neighbours.

HOW TO AVOID ELECTRICAL FIRES

Electrics



- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating.
- Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it.
- Certain appliances, such as washing machines, should have a single plug to themselves, as they are high powered.
- Try and keep to one plug per socket.
- When charging electrical goods, follow the manufacturer's instructions and look for the CE mark that indicates chargers comply with European safety standards.

Did you know...

An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take, so do not overload them. Appliances use different amounts of power – a television may use a 3amp plug and a vacuum cleaner a 5amp plug for example.



Night time checklist

- Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading.
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on – like your freezer.
- Check your cooker is turned off.
- Don't leave the washing machine on.
- Turn heaters off and put up fireguards.
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- **Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.**

BE SAFE



E-Mobility devices

E-Mobility devices - Scooters, E-Bikes and Mobility scooters. Beware !!!

Please be aware that any device that uses a lithium-ion battery has the potential to be a serious fire risk. These batteries are susceptible to damage, overheating and over charging, If this happens the batteries release a toxic gas and in some cases explode.

If your battery for any device starts to issue smoke then get away from it as fast as you can as this is is what occurs shortly before the battery explodes.

To reduce the risk :-

- If possible use an external charging locker
- Do not leave batteries on to charge unattended
- Do not charge or store batteries in communal hallways
- Un plug from chargers when full- do not allow batteries to overcharge
- Do not use converter kits sold on line - they do not meet British safety standards

In the event of an e-bike, e-scooter or lithium-ion battery fire. Get out, stay out, and call 999

The Fire Brigade carry out free home safety visits, if you would like to arrange this with them, they can be contacted by calling 0800 028 4428,

emailing smokealarms@london-fire-gov.uk or text SMS 07860 021319