



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Home fire safety guide

Easy Read



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Keep your home safe



Fit a smoke alarm and test it

Fit at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home. Test it every week.



Smoking

Never smoke in bed.



Never smoke in an armchair if you think you may fall asleep.

Do not leave a lit cigarette, pipe or candle unattended.



Use deep ashtrays so that cigarettes cannot roll out, and don't throw hot ash into the bin.



Matches and candles

Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children.



Heating and electrics

Sit at least three feet away from heaters. Never put a heater near clothes or furniture.



Don't overload electrical sockets.



Communal areas, stairs and balconies

Never store anything in communal areas including balconies. Items can block your escape route and be a fire risk.

Take extra care in the kitchen



Don't cook if you are tired or have been drinking.



Never leave pans unattended when cooking.



If the pan does catch fire:

Don't try to move it or throw water on to it – it will make it worse.



Turn off the heat if you can do so safely. If in any doubt, leave the room, close the door. Shout to warn others to get out and call 999.

Stay safe when you go to bed



Close all the doors. This helps to prevent fire spreading.



Switch off and unplug electrical appliances except those that are meant to stay on, like the fridge.



Check your cooker and heaters are turned off.



Keep door and window keys where everyone you live with can find them.

Know what to do in a fire



Plan your escape

Fires happen when you least expect them and you will only have a short time to take action.



Think of how you would get out if your normal way out is blocked.



Keep the escape routes clear of rubbish, or big things at all times.



Tell everyone in the house where the door and window keys are kept.

Escaping from fire in your home



If your smoke alarm goes off when you are asleep, follow your escape plan and get out.



Shout 'FIRE' to warn others. Don't stop to pick up valuables.



Check closed doors with the back of your hand. Do not open the door if it feels warm. The fire may be on the other side.



Smoke can kill. Get down as low as possible where the air will be clearer.



If your escape is blocked by fire it may be safer to stay put 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 and wait to be rescued.

If you live in a flat



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 say which floor the fire is on.



It may be safer to stay in your flat until the fire brigade arrives. Close the door. Use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke.



Most blocks of flats are built to give you some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames and smoke for at least 30 minutes.

For more information



For further fire safety advice visit our website:

www.london-fire.gov.uk

