

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

FIRE!

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

Fit a smoke alarm and check it regularly

Make a fire action plan so that everyone in your flat knows how to escape in the event of fire

Take care when cooking with hot oil and think about using thermostatically controlled deep fat fryers

Never leave lit candles unattended

Ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully

Never smoke in bed

Keep matches and lighters away from children

Keep clothing away from heating appliances

Take care in the kitchen! Accidents whilst cooking account for 59% of fires in the home

Take special care when you are tired or when you've been drinking.
Half of all deaths in domestic fires happen between 10pm and 8am.

HIGHRISE ESCAPE: Introduction

Living above the first floor doesn't make you any more at risk from fire. Most of your planning is the same as homes at ground level, but there are some key differences...

High-rise flats are built to be fireproof - walls, ceilings and doors will hold back flames and smoke. Most fires don't spread further than one or two rooms. If there's a fire elsewhere in the building you're usually safest in your flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you.

HIGHRISE ESCAPE: Your Escape Plan

- Sit down with everyone who lives in your home
- Talk together about how you'd react to a fire.
- Choose an escape route - This should be the easiest way out but you will not be able to use a lift.
- Pick a second escape route too.
- Don't choose a balcony.
- You need to think how to get out of your flat and into communal areas, but also how to get off your floor.
- Think about a refuge - If you can't escape you will need to find one room to take refuge in. You're safest if the room (or it could be a lobby or corridor) is protected by fire-resistant walls - this is particularly important if you have difficulty moving around or going down stairs on your own.
- Make sure everyone knows where the stairs are - As it's easy to get confused in the dark, count how many doors you need to go through. Don't use the lift.
- Make sure everyone knows where door and window keys are kept
- Always keeping your keys in the same place might save a life one day.
- Make sure everyone knows where the fire alarm boxes are
- Keep the escape route clear - Check there aren't any boxes, rubbish or anything inflammable in corridors or stairways. Make sure doors to stairways and fire escapes aren't locked. Regularly check you can open these doors from both sides.

HIGHRISE ESCAPE: If There's a Fire in Your Flat

- Alert everyone
- Make sure everyone in your home knows about the fire. Alert neighbouring flats by banging on the doors on your way out.
- Set off the fire alarm if there is one.
- If there's a lot of smoke, crawl along the floor where the air will be clearer.
- Get everyone out
- Don't delay for valuables.
- Don't investigate the fire.
- Before you open doors check them with the back of your hand. If they're warm don't open them - the fire is on the other side.
- Don't use the lift - go down the stairs.
- Call 999
- Use a mobile phone or a phone box. Give the address including the number of your flat, and tell them what floor the fire is on.
- Don't go back in. Not for anything, even pets.

HIGHRISE ESCAPE: If Your Escape Route is Blocked

- If the fire is in your flat, get everyone into a room with a window.
- Put cushions, bedding, etc, round the bottom of the door to block smoke.
- Open the window. If you feel in serious danger, wave a sheet out of the window so the firefighters know you're there.
- If the fire is outside your flat, seal your front door with tape if you can as well as using bedding, etc. Close any ventilators. Phone 999, giving the number of your flat. If your front door becomes hot, wet it down.

ESCAPE: If Your Clothes Catch Fire

- Don't run around, you'll only fan the flames and make them burn faster.
- Lie down, this makes it harder for the fire to spread. It also reduces the effect of flames on your face and head (flames burn upwards).
- Smother the flames
- Cover the flames with heavy material, like a coat or blanket. This blocks the fire's supply of oxygen.
- Roll around, rolling smothers the flames.

IF YOUR CLOTHES ARE ON FIRE



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!

FIRE: We recommend that all residents (whether you own or rent) refer to the www.firekills.gov.uk website for advice and guidance. The above is an extract from that site.