

# General points

Plan for a safe refuge in case you cannot escape from the house. Take the following precautions:

- ✓ Make sure there is a phone in the room to call for help.
- ✓ Try to have a room with a window so you can either escape or call out for help (stay by the window).
- ✓ Close the door and seal the bottom with towels or blankets to stop harmful smoke entering.

Call the emergency services.

- ✓ Dial 999 or 112
- ✓ Tell the operator what service you require.
- ✓ Speak calmly and clearly giving the address of the fire and your phone number.
- ✓ Only hang up when the operator tells you to.

# Never

- ✗ Re-enter a burning house for personal items.
- ✗ Borrow batteries from the Smoke Alarm.
- ✗ Have mirrors over fireplaces with real fires.



## FACTS!

- On average 46 people die each year in fires in this country.
- Fires do not always happen to other people.
- The next fire could be in your home.

# Remember:

**Be careful when using portable electric / gas / oil heaters.**

- Do not use heaters near furniture, curtains, etc.
- Take extreme care if using heaters to dry clothes.
- Never leave heaters on when going to bed.
- Take care if pets are near the heaters.



# Fire Safety in Flats and Apartments



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**fire safety**  
*Be on your guard*



# Prevention

## Avoid:

- ✗ Smoking when tired, in bed or on medication.
- ✗ Leaving burning candles unattended.
- ✗ Leaving young children unattended.
- ✗ Leaving matches and lighters where children can get them.
- ✗ Leaving chip pans, frying pans, etc unattended even for a minute.
- ✗ Standing too close to fires, heaters, etc.
- ✗ Using faulty electrical appliances.
- ✗ Overloading electric sockets.

## Make sure to:

- ✓ Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year and heating system serviced regularly.
- ✓ Use a sparkguard with open fires.
- ✓ Use proper holders when burning candles.
- ✓ Keep ashtrays empty when not in use.
- ✓ Have a suitable fire extinguisher and fire blanket in your kitchen.
- ✓ Have faulty electrical appliances repaired or replaced immediately.
- ✓ Close all doors at night time.
- ✓ Carry out a routine fire safety check before going to bed.



# Detection

- ✓ The building should be provided with an appropriate fire detection and alarm system.
- ✓ Test your smoke alarms at least once a week.
- ✓ Change the batteries every year.
- ✓ When the low battery warning beep sounds change the battery immediately.

# Evacuation plan

- ✓ Plan an evacuation drill with all occupants of your flat / apartment and practice it regularly.
- ✓ When practising your evacuation drill have an alternative exit in case your primary exit is blocked by fire.
- ✓ Have a meeting point in a safe place outside of the house / building.
- ✓ All escape routes ie. hallways / stairways should be kept clear day and night.
- ✓ Keep keys to doors and windows easily and immediately available.
- ✓ If the building fire alarm activates check for smoke or heat at the front door before opening it.

## FACT!

Over 1,000 people every year attend casualty units with burns or scald related injuries. (HIPE & NPRS Unit ESRI)

# Routine fire safety check

A "Routine Fire Safety Check" only takes a few minutes but it could mean the difference between Life and Death.

## Every night:

- ✓ Unplug all unnecessary electrical appliances.
- ✓ Turn off all unnecessary gas appliances.
- ✓ Extinguish all candles and naked flames.
- ✓ Place a spark guard in front of open fires.
- ✓ Empty all ashtrays.
- ✓ Keep all escape routes completely clear.
- ✓ Close all doors.

