

Fire Safety Advice

London Borough of Hounslow takes fire safety very seriously. There is an ongoing programme of inspections carried out regularly to ensure that risks are minimised. For more advice on fire safety at home, visit <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireSafety.asp>

Minimise the risks from fire by following the advice below:

- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm in your home. Check batteries at least once a month by pressing the test button and always replace batteries promptly when they are low. Do not try to replace the battery on a 10-year long-lasting smoke alarm. Dispose of the device and replace it.
- If a smoke alarm is beeping it means that the battery needs to be replaced.
- Keep escape routes clear including communal areas/corridors and stairwells.
- Ensure communal doors self-close upon entrance and exit. Report any faults or repairs to your landlord.
- Never smoke in bed or in a chair where you could fall asleep.
- Do not leave a lit cigarette, pipe or candle unattended. Use deep ashtrays.
- Do not smoke in communal areas.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Keep heaters away from clothes or soft furnishings.
- Do not overload electrical sockets.
- Check everything is safe and switched off before going to bed.
- Do not prop open communal doors or any fire safety doors in your home. In a fire, they are designed to withstand the fire longer than normal doors.
- Do not replace or remove the fire doors in your home.
- If you suspect there is a carbon monoxide or a gas leak in your building, call the National Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999**.
- Plan your escape route from your flat rather than waiting until there is a fire. Think of another way out in case the planned one is blocked
- Do not use the lift, use the stairs.
- Keep all escape routes clear of obstructions at all times.
- Tell everyone in the household where the door and window keys are kept.
- If your smoke alarm goes off while you're asleep, get everyone out as quickly as you can. **Do not assume it is a false alarm.** Dial **999** if you have time. Check closed doors with the back of your hand, if they are hot, do not open them as this means there is a fire on the other side.
- If you can't get out, find a safe room away from fire, ideally one with a window that opens. Close the door and put bedding or any soft materials around the bottom of the door to block the smoke coming underneath.
- If you live in a purpose built block and there is a fire elsewhere in the building the advice is to remain in your accommodation, shut doors and windows and await rescue by LFB.
- If you have a phone, call **999** and ask for the fire brigade. Be prepared 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 the window. Use soft materials to cushion your fall and always lower yourself down carefully.

In the event of a fire:

- If you live in a flat, converted house or a hostel and a fire alarm sounds, please evacuate immediately.
- Purpose built flats are built to give some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames for a time
- If a fire is in your flat or on your floor leave, shut the door and call London Fire Brigade on 999. Do not waste time by collecting valuables or documents, leave immediately.

Register your appliances:

- You can register all of your domestic appliances to ensure that manufacturers know who to contact if a safety repair is needed. This website provides quick access to the registration pages of over 60 leading brands of domestic appliances:
www.registermyappliance.org.uk

