## What to do:

Plan for a safe place in case you cannot get out of the house.

- Make sure there is a phone or personal alert in the room to call for help.
- Make sure there is a window so you can either get out or call for help. Stay by the window if you can't get out.
- Close the door and seal the bottom with towels or blankets to stop smoke getting in.

#### Call **999** or **112**

- Ask for the fire service.
- Speak calmly and clearly.
- Give your address and phone number. If you are calling on your mobile, say what county you are in.
- Only hang up when the operator tells you to.

## Don't:

- So back into a burning house for anything.
- Borrow batteries from the smoke alarm.
- Have mirrors over fireplaces with real fires. Your clothes might catch fire if you stand too close to look in the mirror.

## Remember:

Be careful when using portable electric, gas or oil heaters.

- Don't use heaters near furniture, curtains or beds.
- Don't leave heaters on when you go to bed.
- Take care if pets are near the heaters.
- Don't use heaters to dry clothes.

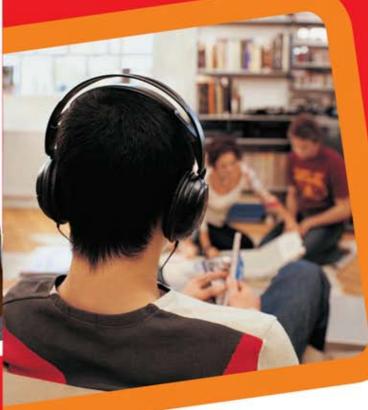


# 6

Comhisheol, Pobal agus Rialtas Alfiail Environment, Community and Local Government

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# Fire safety in flats and apartments





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



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## Prevent fire

#### Don't:

- Smoke when you are in bed, tired or on medication.
- X Leave the room when there are candles burning.
- X Leave young children alone near an open fire or cooker.
- X Leave matches and lighters where children can get them.
- X Leave the room when a chip or frying pan is on even for a minute.
- Overload electric sockets one socket, one plug.
- Use electric appliances that don't work properly.
- Run electrical appliances from a light socket.
- Use a heater or the cooker to dry clothes.
- Stand too close to fires or heaters.
- Use petrol or paraffin to light a solid fuel stove.

#### Make sure to:

- Clean your chimney and service your heating system at least once a year.
- Use a sparkguard with open fires.
- Keep your gas cylinder outside, on solid ground and away from anything hot.
- Use a proper holder for candles.
- Keep a suitable fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the kitchen.
- Repair or replace faulty electrical appliances immediately.
- Do a fire safety check before you go to bed.
- Empty ashtrays before you go to bed. Run the contents under the tap before you bin them.
- Unplug all appliances (except the fridge) at night.
- Close all doors at night.



## Detect fire

Smoke alarms give you an early warning of a fire. 82% of fires that kill people are in homes with no working smoke alarm.

- Your building should have a fire detection and alarm system. If there are no smoke alarms, ask your landlord to get some for the building.
- Fit at least one smoke alarm in your flat or apartment.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a week.
- Change the batteries every year.
- Change the battery right away when you hear the warning beep.

## Escape

Know what to do when you hear a smoke alarm so you and your family can get out safely.

- Make an escape plan for your home and practise with everyone who lives with you.
- Plan at least two ways out in case one way is blocked by fire.
- Have a meeting point in a safe place outside the building.
- Keep your way out clear day and night.
- Keep the keys to doors and windows nearby.
- Know where the nearest phone is to call the fire service.
- If you hear the fire alarm, check doors with the back of your hand for heat before you open them. If they are warm, the way might be blocked by fire.

#### FACT!

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

## Fire safety check

A fire safety check only takes a few minutes but it could mean the difference between life and death. Make it part of your routine before you go to bed.

### Every night:

- Unplug all electrical appliances (except fridge freezer).
- Turn off gas appliances.
- Put out candles and naked flames.
- Place a spark guard in front of open fires.
- Empty all ashtrays.
- Keep your way out completely clear.
- Close all doors.