

# 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:

- ✗ Go 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.



## FACTS!

- 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.

# 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.



# Fire safety in flats and apartments



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



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Environment, Heritage and Local Government



# Prevent fire

## Don't:

- ✗ Smoke when you are in bed, tired or on medication.
- ✗ Leave the room when there are candles burning.
- ✗ Leave young children alone near an open fire or cooker.
- ✗ Leave matches and lighters where children can get them.
- ✗ 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.

