



**Red Kite**  
Community Housing

# Fire safety in the home



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## Did you know?

- You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire if you don't have a working smoke alarm
- Each year 8 people die because the battery in their smoke alarm was flat or missing
- More than half of home fires are caused by cooking accidents
- Three fires a day are started by candles
- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette
- Faulty electrics cause around 700 house fires across the



## How to make sure that your smoke alarm works

- Test it by pressing the button until the alarm sounds. If it doesn't sound then you need to replace the batteries
- If your smoke alarm starts to beep on a regular basis, you need to replace the battery immediately
- If your alarm goes off by mistake, never disconnect or take the batteries out
- Standard battery operated smoke alarms are the cheapest option but the batteries need to be replaced every year
- An alarm with a ten year battery is the best option
- Make testing your smoke alarm part of your regular household routine.



## Candles

- Put candles out when you leave the room and make sure that they are put out completely at night
- Use a snuffer or a spoon to put out candles it's safer than blowing them out
- Children shouldn't be left alone with lit candles.



## In the kitchen - How to cook safely

- Take extra care if you need to leave the kitchen while cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk of catching fire
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out so they don't get knocked off the stove
- Take care if you are wearing loose clothing when cooking - it can easily catch fire
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob
- Spark devices are safer than matches or lighters to light gas cookers, because they don't have a naked flame
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished using it.



## Deep fat frying

- Take care when cooking with hot oil - it sets alight easily
- Where possible make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it doesn't splash
- If the oil starts to smoke it is too hot, so turn off the heat and leave it to cool
- Use a thermostat controlled electric deep fat fryer, as they can't over heat.



## What to do if a pan catches fire

- Don't take any risks and never throw water over it
- Don't tackle the fire yourself
- Call 999 immediately
- Turn off the heat
- Never move the pan
- Never use water on pan fires
- Have a clear escape route.



## Take care with electrics

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and things like kitchen rolls
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order, a build up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.



## Electrics - How to avoid electrical fires

- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating
- Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it
- Certain appliances such as washing machines should have a single plug to themselves as they are high powered
- Try and keep to one plug per socket
- Keep your eyes peeled for dangerous or loose wiring, scorch marks, hot plug sockets, fuses that blow or circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reason, or flickering lights
- Check and replace any old cables and leads, especially if they are hidden from view - behind furniture or under carpets and mats



## Using an electric blanket

- Store electric blankets flat, rolled up or loosely folded to prevent damaging the internal wiring
- Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all night use
- Try not to buy second hand blankets and check regularly for wear and tear.



## Portable heaters

- Try to secure heaters up against a wall to stop them falling over
- Keep them clear from curtains and furniture and **never** use them for drying clothes.



## Furniture

- Always make sure that your furniture has a permanent fire resistant label.



## Cigarettes

- Never smoke in bed
- Use a proper ashtray - never a wastepaper basket
- Make sure your ashtray can't tip over and is made of material that won't burn
- Don't leave a cigarette, cigar or pipe lying around, as they can easily fall and start a fire
- Take extra care if you smoke when you are tired, taking prescription drugs or if you've been drinking, as you might fall asleep and set your bed or sofa on fire
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach
- Consider buying child resistant lighters and match boxes.



## Keep door and window keys where you can find them

- In the event of a fire, keep calm and act quickly. Get everyone out as soon as possible and stay low where the air is clearer
- Don't waste time investigating what has happened or rescuing valuables
- Call 999 as soon as you are clear of the building.

## **Be prepared by making a plan of escape**

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape
- Make sure exits are kept clear
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked
- Take a few minutes to practice your escape plan

# Check list

- Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances, unless they are designed to be left on - like your freezer
- Check your cooker is turned off
- Don't leave the washing machine on when you are out
- Turn heaters off and put up fireguards
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly
- Make sure exits are kept clear
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them



*If you require this document in another format, for example Braille, large type or audio tape/CD please call the number below.*

*If English is not your first language, we can offer an interpreter to explain this information to you.*

اگر انگلش آس کی مادری زبان نہیں ہے تو ہم ان معلومات کی وضاحت کیلئے ایک ترجمہ کار بندوبست کر سکتے ہیں  
Urdu

Dla osób nie władających językiem angielskim  
możliwe będzie zorganizowanie tłumacza celem  
wyjaśnienia tych informacji.

Polish

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