

**In the event of a fire in your home, the consequences can be enormous, both in terms of loss of possessions and – more importantly – potential loss of life. It is vital that you take responsibility for planning your escape in the event of a fire and ensure everyone in your home knows what to do in an emergency. Practise it regularly and have a secondary escape plan just in case your original escape route is blocked.**

## **What should I do if there's a fire?**

- Don't try to tackle the fire yourself; you could put yourself and others in danger. Always dial 999.
- Always make sure you have an escape plan in place and ensure everyone in your home knows what to do in an emergency.
- If you discover a fire in your home, make sure you alert everyone in your household and close any doors behind you as you make your way out. This will help to slow the spread of fire and smoke through the property
- Remember to keep low if there's smoke and always check doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If it is hot, there could be a fire on the other side
- Always keep door and window keys where everyone can find them and make sure the way in and out of your home is clear of clutter and obstacles.
- Do not waste time rescuing valuables and never go back into a building once you are safely outside. Belongings can be replaced; you cannot!

**Get out, stay out and call 999**



## Fire Safety in Flats

In blocks of flats it's essential that:

- All flat front doors and doors on corridors / staircases are kept closed to stop the spread of fire
- Things aren't stored in corridors or staircases as these can block escape routes and stop firefighters doing their job. They can also feed the fire. Keep all communal areas and exit routes clear at all times
- You do not ignore any fire alarm unless you are informed it is a test.



**If your block of flats is being affected by fire or smoke and your escape route IS clear:**

- Get everyone out, close all windows and doors and walk calmly out of the building
- Do not use the lift
- Call 999, give your address, the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

**If there is a fire or smoke inside your block of flats but your escape route is NOT clear:**

- Assess your options and possible alternative exit routes as it may be safer to stay in your flat until the fire brigade arrives
- Find a safe room, preferably with a window, close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke
- Go to a window, shout "HELP, FIRE" and call 999
- Be ready to describe where you are and the quickest way to reach you.

## PCHA's Responsibilities

In stand alone properties (houses) it is your responsibility to look after your safety including the checking of your smoke and CO (Carbon Monoxide) alarms on a weekly basis.

In flats, our aim is to keep people safe by:

- Carrying out regular fire risk assessments in communal areas
- Maintaining and testing any fire detection systems provided
- Reminding tenants to keep hallways clear and enforcing this where necessary
- Reminding tenants to check operation of smoke and CO (Carbon Monoxide) Alarms on a weekly basis.

**For further advice or information:**

**Contact us:**

**T: 020 8659 3055**

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