

Fire safety in flats



East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service have worked with Brighton & Hove City Council to produce this information for residents to ensure safety in the event of a fire.

You need to be aware of how to keep yourself safe in case there is a fire in your block.

Officers can speak to residents about fire safety, to help avoid fires taking place and to ensure our residents' wellbeing.



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Delayed evacuation

If there's a fire in your flat, you should get out, stay out and **call 999**. However, if there's a fire elsewhere in the building, you are usually safe in your own flat with the doors and windows closed, unless heat or smoke is affecting you. If the Fire Service consider it safer for you to evacuate the building, they will tell you to leave.

All our blocks of flats are checked on a regular basis and fire precaution work is carried out where required. Living above the first floor doesn't necessarily put you at a greater risk from fire. High-rise flats are built to be fire-resistant. Walls, ceilings and doors will hold back flames and smoke.

Converted properties (HMO's)

Where fire is discovered, leave the building, alert others and call the fire service on 999. If possible and it is safe to do so, all windows and doors should be closed to prevent fire spread to other areas of the building.



Vulnerable residents

If you or anyone who lives with you would have difficulty leaving the building in the event of a fire, please contact Housing Customer Services on **01273 293030** to discuss your needs.

**Smoke
alarms
save lives**

Fire at night

When you are asleep, it takes longer to notice the signs of a fire. If you don't have a working smoke alarm, there will be nothing to wake you. Contact East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service on freephone **0800 177 7069** to arrange a home visit where they will install smoke detectors where needed.

Know your escape route, in case you need to use it in the night. Check your home for fire hazards before going to bed.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Offer free visits to the home where they can check/fit smoke alarms as appropriate and also give a range of advice around home safety. They would like to hear from you if you, or someone you know, could benefit from a visit. They can discuss any concerns and also refer on for further support as needed. The Fire Service works with a number of key partners in the city and has links to other services for those members of our community who may be vulnerable or isolated.

Telephone: **0800 177 7069**

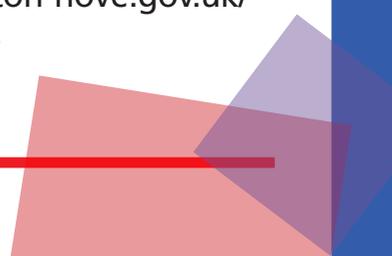
www.esfrs.org

CareLink

CareLink Plus can provide a smoke detector linked to a monitoring centre as part of their telecare alarm service. This is similar to a conventional smoke detector that will sound an alarm in your home. When activated, it will also send an alarm call through to the monitoring centre, where officers will make a 999 call requesting East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service attend if required. Please note there is a charge for this service.

Telephone: **0300 123 3301**

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/carelinkplus



Think ahead

- **The best escape route is the normal way** in and out of your home.
- **Think of any difficulties you may have getting out.** At night you may need to use a torch to light your way.
- **Keep all exits clear** of obstructions as much as possible.
- If there are **children, older or disabled people or pets** in your household, **plan how they will get out.**
- **Decide where the keys to doors and windows should be kept** and always keep them there. Make sure everyone in your household knows where they are.
- **You won't be able to use the lift if there's a fire.** Think about the route to the stairs in case you can't find your way. Are there any doors you can feel your way by?

Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them



- **Make sure communal stairways and fire escapes are kept clear of all obstructions.** Speak to your neighbours and housing staff if you have concerns.
- **If you are able to, try the stairs occasionally,** so you are familiar with how the doors open so that there are no delays in a fire.
- If you can't manage the stairs and need to leave your flat, **close the door behind you,** team up with a neighbour on the same landing and refuge in their flat. Or alert neighbours and stay on the other side of the fire door on the stairs and await the fire service.

Preventing a fire

The most common causes of fires are:



Appliances

Switch off appliances at night and buy appliances from trustworthy sources.



Kitchen fires

Take extra care with oil and ensure that handles of pans are turned inwards so that children can't reach them and they can't be knocked off.



Electrical sockets

Don't use adapters to overload sockets.

Have no more than one plug in each socket.



Cigarette and candles

Stub out cigarettes properly and throw them away appropriately.

Make sure candles are in a fireproof holder and don't light them near children, pets, curtains or other fabric.



Rubbish

Put all rubbish in the bins provided and ensure any bin-room doors are closed behind you.



Gas appliances

If you have a gas boiler, make sure the **council is given access to test it** once a year.



Deliberate fires

Arson is a cause of fires.

Don't let anybody into the block that you don't know and keep common ways clear.

An icon of a person in bed with three green checkmarks above them, indicating a checklist or reminders.

Make a bedtime check before you go to sleep

You are more at risk from a fire when asleep.

Remember these steps

Keep your front door closed and close the windows

Fire and smoke can spread from floor to floor through open windows.



Do not use the lifts. Always take the stairs.



If you can't manage the stairs, wait in your flat for help to arrive.

Call 999 never assume that someone has already done it. **You could save lives.**



If you pass a fire alarm, activate it on your way past and keep moving.

While waiting for help to arrive, make sure the **escape routes out** of your flat are **kept free of obstacles.**



If instructed to, **make your way calmly out of the building.**



Once outside, **gather at your assembly point.** Assembly points are detailed on the Fire Action Notices displayed in communal areas.

It is important to check your smoke alarms regularly.



These will often be the first indicator of a fire in your home.

Housing Customer Services

Tel: 01273 293030

email: housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing