

Fire protection

The right equipment in your home can save lives



At least one **smoke alarm** per floor, ideally near to bedrooms. Test smoke alarms once a month and after any long time away from home. Replace the batteries smoke alarms at least once a year.

Seniors!

If you have a security alarm, you can add a smoke alarm to alert the emergency response centre automatically. If you have a hearing impairment, you can connect a vibration pad to your smoke alarm.



Replace your **fire extinguisher** every ten years or when the indicator under the handle points towards red. Powder extinguishers should be turned over from time to time to prevent the contents from clumping.

How to use a fire extinguisher:

1. Remove the safety seal.
2. Aim the hose at the burning object, not the flames.
3. Press down the upper part of the handle and empty the contents.

Seniors!

If a larger fire extinguisher is too heavy to manage, have several small ones instead.



If the fire is in the kitchen, a **fire blanket** is more suitable. If someone's clothes are burning, you should always use a fire blanket.

The fire blanket should be easily accessible on the wall with free space below so it can be easily pulled out.

Common causes of fire

Facts

Prevention

When something starts to burn

Kitchen

Most kitchen fires are due to food or fat burning on the stove.

Keep the stove clean and free from objects. Use a stove guard or timer. Never leave food being cooked unattended.

Put the lid on or use a fire blanket. Never extinguish with water, as that causes the fire to spread.

Electronics

Most electronic fires occur when you are at home.

Use a heat resistant pad and/or timer. Also keep an eye on electronics on charge. Replace damaged cables or plugs.

Unplug and extinguish with a fire blanket or water. If using a powder extinguisher, it is not necessary to unplug first.

Balconies

Balconies are the second most common place for fires.

Do not store boxes, waste or other flammable materials on the balcony. Place ash and other barbecue residue in a metal container with a lid.

If possible, try to stamp out smaller fires. Pour on water or use a powder extinguisher.

Stairwells

Fires which start in stairwells are often deliberate.

Do not store prams, packing boxes, rubbish or other flammable materials in stairwells. Ensure doors to cellars and lifts are locked.

Always stay in your apartment and close the door if the stairwell is full of smoke. Call 112. For smaller fires, use a powder extinguisher or a fire blanket.

Candles

Most fires occur in December and the other winter months.

Blow out candles when you leave the room. Place candles away from curtains and other highly flammable materials.

Extinguish curtains which are alight with a fire extinguisher or pull down the curtains and place a fire blanket over them. Never use a fire extinguisher on people.

If clothing is on fire

1. Lie the person down.
2. Use a fire blanket or whatever is to hand to put the fire out.
3. Start with the head and work down the body.

In the event of a fire

Rescue – Warn – Alert – Extinguish

Rescue yourself and others nearby. **Close the door** to the room with the fire to stop toxic smoke and the fire from spreading quickly.

Warn others so they can get themselves safe too. Start the fire alarm manually if it is not activated.

Alert the emergency services by calling 112.

Extinguish the fire if you think you can. If you use a powder extinguisher, spray it on the item on fire, not the flames.



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