

# Fire safety

In the UK, around 500 people die every year because of fire. Most fires happen when people are asleep.

With a working smoke alarm, you are four times more likely to survive a fire. But as many as three out of 10 UK smoke alarms don't have a working battery.

## Make an escape plan

Everyone should make an escape plan in case of fire.

If you live in a block of flats, check whether your scheme has a 'stay put' or an 'evacuation' policy.

Think about how you could leave your home if the usual exit were blocked.

Tell everyone in your household where you keep door and window keys.

## Fire safety do's and don'ts

- **DO** test your smoke alarms weekly. You should have one for every level of your home.
- **DO** replace batteries when needed, or call us if your mains-powered alarm isn't working.
- **DO** plan your escape route.
- **DO** tell us and your local fire and rescue service if someone in your home might not be able to escape.
- **DON'T** obstruct any escape routes from your home with rubbish or personal items. We have a zero tolerance approach to personal items in common areas. We will remove any items we find.

## Fire safety at home

Use your home safely to reduce the risk of fire.

Never smoke in bed, or at any time if you might fall asleep. Never leave a lit cigarette, pipe unattended. Use deep ashtrays and never throw hot ash into the bin. Keep matches and lighters away from children.

If you use candles, or other lit flames, never leave them unattended. Place them on a heat-resistant surface.

Sit at least three feet away from heaters and never put them near clothes or furniture.

Don't overload electrical sockets.



When cooking, take extra care. Never leave pans unattended. If a pan catches fire, **DON'T** throw water on it. Turn off the heat if you can do it safely. If in doubt, leave the room, shut the door and call 999 immediately.

Close all doors, especially at night, as this helps to prevent fire spreading.

Switch off and unplug electrical appliances, except the ones that are meant to stay on, like the fridge. Check your cooker and heaters are turned off.



If you have any health and safety concerns, call us on **020 7625 1799** or email us at [admin@odu-dua.org](mailto:admin@odu-dua.org)