

A guide to fire safety for tenants living in Sheltered Housing Schemes

Information and advice on fire safety around your home and scheme.

Weekly testing of the fire alarm

It is a **legal** requirement that the fire alarm is tested every week to make sure that it is working satisfactorily, and that the alarms can be heard in all areas.

The Scheme Manager will test the alarm weekly, normally at the same time. It will sound for no longer than 30 seconds.

If the alarm sounds continuously then it is a real emergency.

Fire signs

These are located all around the building. If you notice that a sign has fallen down or has been removed, please tell your Scheme Manager.

In the event of a fire

If you are in the communal area of your scheme and you hear the fire alarm sound:

- **Do not** attempt to make your way back to your flat
- **Do not** use the lift
- **Make your way** to the assembly point for your scheme. The Fire Brigade will meet you there
- **Do not** investigate the fire.

Details of the scheme's evacuation procedure and assembly point are located on the notice board in the communal area.



If you are not in immediate danger:

Please remain in your home. If you need to evacuate your home, the **Fire Brigade** will inform you and assist you if necessary.

If you are in immediate danger:

- You may not be able to get out of your flat or the building because the fire may be blocking the exit.
- If there is a fire in your flat, get everyone into a room with a window. Put cushions or bedding around the bottom of the door to block the smoke.
- If the fire is outside your flat, keep the door closed and phone **999**. Pull your alarm cord giving the number of your flat.

How to make your home safer

- **Make sure** that you have a smoke alarm that is in full working order
- **Take care** when cooking with hot oil and think about using deep fat fryers that are thermostatically controlled instead.
- **Never** leave lit candles unattended.
- **Make sure** that cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully.
- **Never** smoke in bed.
- **Keep** clothing away from heated appliances.
- **Take care** in the kitchen! Accidents whilst cooking account for 59% of all fires in the home.



Take special care when you are tired or when you've been drinking. Half of all deaths in domestic fires happen between **10pm** and **8am**.