

## Key information sheet

# Fire safety in the home



### Test your smoke alarm

When you moved into your home, you will have had at least one smoke alarm already fitted. It is your responsibility to test smoke alarms regularly and replace batteries as necessary.

The smoke alarm(s) may be battery powered or wired into the mains electricity supply in your house. If it is battery powered, you should test the batteries in your smoke alarm every week and change them every year. Don't remove the batteries - the one time you forget to put them back in could be the day a fire starts in your home.

You might want to fit extra smoke alarms to cover different parts or floors of your house. Smoke alarms can be bought cheaply from supermarkets and DIY shops.

### What we will do

- We have a programme of work to fit mains powered smoke alarms in all homes over the coming years.
- We will carry out regular checks of communal areas to make sure they are clear of potential risks and blockages.
- Have clearly sign posted emergency exits.

### Take care when cooking

60% of accidental home fires start in the kitchen. It is important to be alert and get distracted when cooking. Some sensible precautions include:

- Don't leave children alone in the kitchen when you are cooking
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the hob

- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker
- Keep electrics (appliances and leads) away from water

### Cigarettes – put them out, right out

More people die in fires caused by smoking than in fires caused by anything else. If you do smoke:

- Always stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully
- Don't smoke in bed
- Use metal, glass or ceramic ash trays

### Use candles carefully

Candles, decorative lights and decorations are a growing cause of fires:

- Make sure that candles are secured in a stable holder and kept away from curtains, fabrics and paper
- Check that flames are completely put out when you are leaving the room or going to bed
- Don't leave children alone with candles

### Advice from the Fire Service

Plan a route to escape your home and make sure everyone in the house knows the plan. Check for fire hazards in your home before you go to bed - it takes longer to become aware of a fire when you are asleep. Check that your way out is kept clear.

Your local fire service can visit your home and offer advice on fire safety. Get in touch with us, and we can give you their contact details.

Get out. Stay out. Call 999

Tel: 0800 6349876 from a landline  
or 0300 3330001 from a mobile  
Email: [info@mvha.org.uk](mailto:info@mvha.org.uk)  
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