

# High-rise flats – built to be fireproof

## Keeping your building safe

**Never use or store bottled gas cylinders in high-rise flats.**

**Never tamper with dry riser inlets on landings. It could cost lives if they're not working properly when there's a fire. If you see a dry riser vandalised, report it immediately to your Housing Association/ Factor.**

**Never park so you block access to high-rise flats. Access roads are designed so that fire appliances can get as close as possible to fight fires.**

## Built to be fireproof

You're not at any more risk from fire because you're living in a high-rise flat.

High-rise flats are built to be fireproof. Doors, walls and ceilings will hold back flames and smoke. Most fires don't spread further than one or two rooms.

If there's a fire in another flat in the building, you're usually safest in your own home, unless you're affected by the heat or smoke.



Visit [www.dontgivefireahome.com](http://www.dontgivefireahome.com) for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.





## Making your flat even safer

Make sure that you've got a smoke alarm. If your alarm is bleeping from time to time, you need to fit a new battery. Press the button to test it once every week. If the alarm doesn't work, contact your Housing Association/ Factor to get it repaired. If you own your house, replace the alarm. If the alarm has a battery, change the battery every year even if it's still working.

Make an escape plan for your home. You don't have to be an expert. Just think it through. How would you get out at night? How would you get the kids out? Plan to make one room your 'safe room' in case you can't escape. It's best if it's a room with a window and a phone.

If you're trapped, go to the balcony. But don't think about jumping. Wait for the fire brigade. Don't use the lifts. Tell everyone in your home what the escape plan is. Tell everyone where the door key is. Practise what you'd do if you had a real fire.

## Making your building even safer

Keep your escape route clear. Make sure there's no rubbish in corridors and stairways. Make sure everyone knows where the stairs are. Practise what you'd do if you had a real fire.

### If there's a fire in your flat

Try to keep calm. Shout to let everyone in the flat know. Then get out and stay out. Don't stop for valuables. Your life's more important. Don't go looking for the fire. Don't open doors if they're warm to touch.

If there's a lot of smoke, crawl on the floor. The air will be clearer there. Make sure your neighbours know about the fire. Bang on their doors on your way out. Phone the fire brigade. It's free to dial 999 from any phone.

If you can't get out because the fire is blocking your escape, get everyone into the safe room. Pack cushions, bedding, pillows and towels at the bottom of the door to block the smoke. Open the window and wave a sheet to let the firefighters know that you're there. If you've got any sticky tape, put that round the door to seal it. If you've got any water, wet the door if it starts getting hot.

### No-one should jump from a high-rise. Ever.

## If there's a fire in your building

If you smell smoke in the bin area or the chute, phone the fire brigade. But remember, your flat is your safe refuge from fire. Stay there and close all windows and doors.

If your front door starts to feel warm to touch, pack cushions, bedding, pillows and towels at the bottom of the door to block the smoke. If you've got any sticky tape, put that round the door to seal it. Wet the door with water if it starts getting hotter. Open the window and wave a sheet to let the firefighters know that you're there.

Only leave the safety of your flat if you're affected by heat or smoke, or if you're told to leave by firefighters or police.

### Use the stairs. Never use the lift if there's a fire anywhere in the building.

