

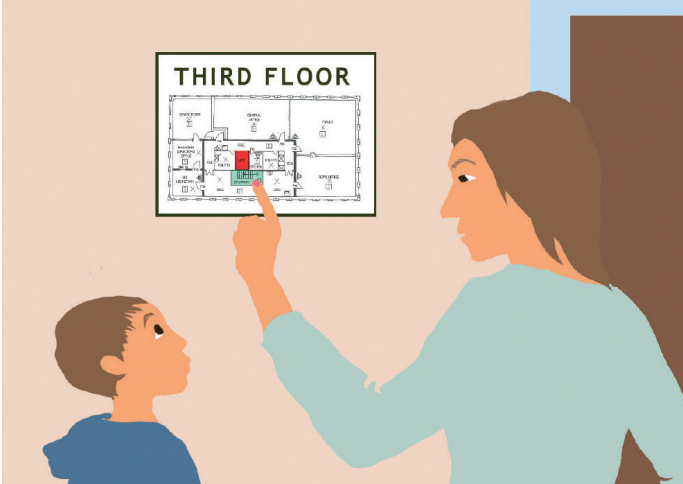
# Fire safety

## IN FLATS

Your building is designed to resist fire and stop the spread of smoke. It's important that you know what to do if there's a fire in the tower block and how you can help keep your tower block safe.



## You should



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### Be prepared

- Plan escape routes before a fire happens.
- Know what safety actions to take during the fire.
- Report any fire hazards immediately (see back page).
- Do your part to prevent fires.
- Try not to panic and stay calm.

## Make sure you know



2

What your smoke alarm sounds like.



3

What to do.



4

How to call the fire service.



5

Your escape route or routes – **don't** use the lift.

## If your flat is on fire – act fast!



### 6 Don't ignore your smoke alarm.

If a door feels hot, there is probably a fire on the other side.

#### You should:

- Close the door of the room where the fire is and other doors to prevent the spread of fire and smoke.
- Get out, closing the front door behind you, and stay out.

**Call 999 to report the fire**

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## What to do if another flat is on fire



- 7** During a fire you must not use the lifts and the stairs could be overcrowded with other tenants and fire-fighters. Rather than try to escape, it's probably safer to stay in your flat as it is designed to resist fire getting in.

**If the fire is in another flat:**

- **Call 999** to report the fire.
- **Close all doors** go to the living room. It's usually the safest place to be.



- 8** **If you are trapped and can't call 999:**
- **Close all doors** and go to the balcony or a window. Attract attention by shouting, waving a cloth, or in any way you can.
  - **Don't jump** – wait to be rescued.

**Smoke** is the main danger from fire and you should avoid breathing it if possible.

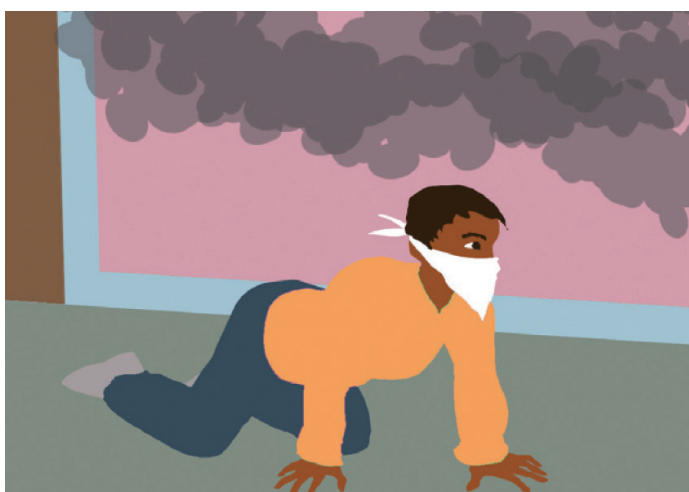
## To help avoid breathing smoke



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### Seal the room

Stuff wet towels and sheets in gaps around doors to seal out smoke.



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### Stay low – smoke rises

It may help to tie a wet cloth over your nose and mouth for easier breathing, but this won't filter out deadly gases.



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### Vent any smoke

If there is no smoke outside, open a window slightly. You might need to close it later, so only break it if necessary.

## If you must leave your flat



**12** Go calmly using the stairs and hold onto the rail. If you're stopped by heavy smoke go to smoke-free area and wait for the fire service.

### **You should only leave your flat if:**

- The fire is in your flat.
- Your flat is full of smoke.
- The fire service tells you to go.

### **If you do leave:**

- Take your key if you can get it safely.
- Close the door behind you.
- Take a torch, if handy.

## **Do not use the lift**

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## Stop fires before they start

You can help prevent fires in high-rise blocks.



### You should take care with:

- Smoking and cooking (the main causes of fire).
- Electrical appliances.
- Flammable liquids – check the label.
- Act upon the fire safety advice given by manufacturers regarding safe use of equipment and any modification recommendations, for example tumble dryers.
- Ensure all doors are closed at night time.
- Turn off any electrical equipment you are not using – especially at night, when a fire can spread quickly while you sleep.



### Report fire hazards, such as:

- Missing or broken fire equipment and fire doors.
- Blocked stairs.
- Electrical problems.
- Rubbish.
- Faulty exit lights.
- Nearby flats that are empty but not secure.



### You should also:

- Test your smoke alarms regularly by pushing the test button. If these are not working this should be reported immediately to the call centre. Refer to your tenancy handbook for further information.
- Keep fire doors closed to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- Keep halls and stairs clear of rubbish – they are your escape route.
- Familiarise yourself with your escape route and staircase in your tower block.
- Unplugging appliances and chargers when you are not using them, or when you go to bed, helps reduce the risk of fire.
- Unplug electric blankets before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.

## Test your smoke alarms regularly

**For any emergencies dial 999**

# Contact us

## **Birmingham City Council**

### **Housing Customer Services**

0121 464 4700

Monday to Thursday: 8.45am–5.15pm

Friday: 8.45am–4.15pm

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**To download a full copy of  
the Tenants Handbook visit:**

[birmingham.gov.uk/tenantshandbook](http://birmingham.gov.uk/tenantshandbook)

## **West Midlands Fire Service (non-emergency)**

### **General enquiries**

0845 5000 900

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### **Safe & Well visits requests**

This also includes anyone with a  
sight, hearing or mobility impairment

0800 389 5525

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### **Fire Safety Department**

0121 380 7500

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### **Email**

[contact@wmfs.net](mailto:contact@wmfs.net)



**[birmingham.gov.uk](http://birmingham.gov.uk)**