

Fire safety in your home



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
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COUNCIL



Fire safety in your home

Fire kills hundreds of people in the UK every year. This leaflet is for residents living in South Kesteven District Council properties and explains the following:

- Fire safety in your home and the building as a whole,
- How to prevent fires
- What to do if a fire breaks out

Please read this carefully, it could help save your life

Did you know in the UK?

- You are twice as likely to die in a fire if you do not have a smoke alarm that works
- You should check smoke alarms weekly
- Over half of home fires are caused by cooking accidents
- More than five fires a day are started by candles
- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette
- Faulty electrical appliances cause around 7,000 house fires every year

Prevent fires by:

- Taking extra care when cooking
- Never leave cooking food unattended
- Don't start cooking if you have taken medication that makes you feel sleepy, have taken drugs or used alcohol
- Regularly check electrical items used to cook for damage
- Don't overload sockets or extension leads
- Dispose of cigarettes carefully and don't smoke in bed
- Keep lighters and matches out of the sight and reach of children and make sure lit candles can't fall over and are used with a heat resistant holder
- Don't put candles near curtains and flammable materials or on tops of TV's
- Avoid leaving internal doors open when you go to bed

Plan your escape

- Make yourself, your family and any visitors aware of the escape routes and exits from your home
- Plan with those in your home what you would do in the event of a fire
- Talk through any escape plan with your family
- Try practicing your escape plan. This is particularly

important if you have young children or vulnerable family members. You should do this a few times to help them to remember and repeat regularly

- Keep door and window keys in a safe place near the doors and windows
- Choose a “safe room” to go to if trapped by fire. This should ideally have a phone and window as well as a door that closes properly
- Keep a torch ready in case of a power cut
- Keep all doors and exists clear of obstructions, such as bikes and pushchairs
- If you live somewhere that has a communal lift, this **should not** be used in the event of a fire

Home safety check

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue offer a home safety visit and self assessment pack which provides fire safety advice and guidance to give you peace of mind in your home. This is especially beneficial if you have vulnerable occupants in your home. Contact Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue on the details below to discuss how they can help and support you:

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue

Telephone: 01476 565441

Email: hfsc@lincoln.fire-uk.org

Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr



Fire action

If you discover a fire:

- Do not tackle the fire yourself unless you are trained to do so, and it is safe
- Keep calm and act quickly
- Alert everyone else and leave the area, stay together and close doors behind you if possible when you leave
- Do not waste time by stopping to collect valuables or investigating what has happened
- Before you open a door use the back of your hand to check if it is warm. If it is warm do not open the door as there may be a fire on the other side.
- Dial 999 and ask for the fire service (or in sheltered schemes raise the alarm at the nearest fire alarm point)
- Leave the building by the nearest exit
- Do not use a balcony escape unless this the only possible option
- Do not go back in the building until you have been told it is safe to do so

If you can't get out by your escape route:

- Get everyone into a "safe room" which has a door that closes properly and a window that

opens. Call 999

- Put cushions, towels or bedding at the bottom of the door to block smoke
- Think now which room might be best for this

Fire safety in flats

Your building has been designed and built with fire safety in mind. The walls, stairs, corridors and doors between flats are specifically designed to resist fire and stop the spread of smoke.

Doors:

Your front door is a fire door and should not be replaced by any other type of door. If your front door is damaged, it should be reported to the repairs team

Fire doors in corridors should always be closed and should never be locked. Fire exit doors should be kept closed and should never be blocked or obstructed

The communal doors to any entrance or exit should be locked to prevent people being able to enter to start a fire

Stairs and corridors:

- Stairs and corridors should always be kept clear. They should never be blocked as this may cause problems escaping in the event of a fire
- Furniture, rubbish, bikes, pushchairs and any other items should not be stored in corridors or on landings, even if you think they look nice or welcoming

Fire alarms:

There is not a general fire alarm for blocks, whether this be low or high rise. The only exception to this is sheltered schemes

General:

- Fire action and safety signs are displayed as appropriate to your building
- Smoking is not permitted within communal areas of blocks. Signs are displayed as necessary
- The council regularly inspect all communal areas to make sure they are safe. You will be told to remove any items that potentially cause a fire
- Never tamper with internal fire mains (dry riser) outlets on landings. These are there to provide a water supply to firefighters

- If you see a dry riser or fire device or equipment damaged please report it to your repairs department as a matter of urgency

Your flat:



- Do not keep any gas cylinders or flammable liquids in your flat. Advise the council and contact Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue if you have gas cylinders for medical purposes
- You should check your smoke alarm in your flat each week to ensure it is working
- The council will check your smoke alarms annually
- When you are in your flat and see or hear about a fire in another part of the building, stay put and only leave if told to do so by the fire service, or if heat or smoke affects your flat

Outside:

Do not block roads as access may be needed for emergency vehicles

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