



## **Advice for residents of multi-storey blocks Fire Safety In Your Home**

This leaflet tells you how to prevent fires and what to do if a fire starts in the block where you live.

Fires in these blocks are extremely rare. Even if one does start your multi-storey block has been specially designed so that, if you follow these simple guidelines, you and your family will remain safe.

### **Preventing Fires**

- **Landings And Corridors**

Your tenancy agreement says that you should keep communal areas clear.

- **Rubbish** in the corridor, on stairwells, or on a landing could provide fuel for a fire or block your escape routes. If you see such hazards it's in your interest to contact your caretaker or call us on **03000 123 123**.
- **Bulky Items** The Council's Environment On Call team will arrange for large bulky items (like old mattresses) to be removed – phone 0161 954 9000. They pick up from the collection point at the block (usually outside of the bin room at ground level). If you need help getting the item down there please ask the caretaker for assistance after you have arranged the collection with Environment On Call .
- **Tenant Belongings** We know that many of you want to personalise the landing outside your home. We understand why. However, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service has advised us that some items may increase fire risk. Items such as soft furnishings and plastic plants and flowers do increase the risk of fire. We want to balance your ability to make it your home with the need to maintain fire safety. We cannot allow soft furnishings such as chairs, carpets and curtains on landings. We would always want to see ceramic containers and real plants. If you have any concerns around this please speak to your caretaker or Tony Budgett, (Caretaking Services Manager) on 0161 227 3005.
- **Mobility Scooters** Mobility scooters should not be stored in communal areas, they should be stored within flats or other designated areas. It is not reasonable to leave mobility scooters in communal areas, the areas were not designed for it. There is potential for the escape route for residents to be cut off & access by the fire service to be hindered in the event of a fire.

- **Dangerous Materials**  
Don't keep things that burn easily in your block. We don't allow portable gas or paraffin heaters, motorbikes or containers of liquid fuel or gas bottles in blocks because they can very easily ignite.
- **The Kitchen**  
Most home fires start in the kitchen. Chip pans are especially dangerous – make sure pans are no more than one third full, and never go out of the kitchen when the pan is on. Don't leave towels or laundry over or near cooking rings.
- **Reporting Faults**  
If you have an emergency repair that could be a fire risk (such as faulty wiring) report it immediately to us on **03000 123 123**, day or night.
- **At Night**  
Switch off and unplug electrical items that don't run permanently. Empty ashtrays, and shut all internal doors to stop a fire spreading quickly. Don't smoke in bed!

### **Preventing Deliberate Fires**

Unfortunately, there are some people who will start fires deliberately. You can help prevent this by keeping the communal areas clear of rubbish, being careful about who you let in the building, and reporting people acting suspiciously to your caretaker, the police or us on **03000 123 123**.

### **Maintaining Fire Safety Equipment**

- Fire doors are fitted with self-closing devices that close the doors automatically behind you. Never prop them open. These doors will protect your escape routes and slow the spread of fire and smoke if a fire does start.
- Rubbish chute hoppers should be self-closing and close fully in position when not being used. If the one in your block does not close fully, please tell your caretaker or call us on **03000 123 123**.
- Although your home is fitted with a hard wired smoke alarm, you still need to test the alarm regularly to make sure it's working properly. Ask for advice if you don't know how to test it.

**If you see any safety equipment such as fire hydrants or emergency lighting that is damaged, your smoke alarm doesn't work or neighbours are propping fire doors open, please tell your caretaker immediately or call us on 03000 123 123.**

### **If Fire Does Break Out...**

- **...in your own flat**  
If you are in the same room as the fire get out and get everyone else out. Don't try to put the fire out. Close the door. Tell everyone in

your home about the fire then get them out of the flat. Close the front door and leave the building. Use the corridors and stairs, **not the lift**. Call the Fire Service (see below).

- **...anywhere else in the building**

The block is designed to keep you safe if a fire breaks out anywhere else. You should normally stay in your own flat and close all the windows and doors. Only get out if your flat is directly affected by heat or smoke, or you are instructed to do so by the emergency services.

If you want any further advice or information please contact the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service on 0161 736 5866 or go on to the '**Fire Kills**' website - [www.firekills.directgov.co.uk](http://www.firekills.directgov.co.uk) - which has plenty of up to date fire safety information.

You can also get free safety advice from any fire station.

If you, or anybody you know, would like this information on CD, in Braille or in another language please contact us:

**Phone: 03000 123 123**

**Textphone** (for hearing impaired tenants):

**0161 274 0899**

**Fax: 03000 123 123**

**Email: [oncall@manchesterworking.co.uk](mailto:oncall@manchesterworking.co.uk)**

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