**IF YOU HAVE A FIRE, DO YOU KNOW YOUR PLAN?**

Follow this advice if you live in a purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes, of any height, with shared communal corridors, external walkways, staircases or entrances.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your flat or maisonette:
- Get everyone out, close the door and walk as calmly as possible out of the building.
- Do not use the lift.
- Call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your flat or maisonette but your escape route is NOT clear:
- It may be safer to stay in your flat or maisonette until the fire brigade arrives. Close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke. Go to a window, call for help, call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is fire in another part of the building but not inside your flat or maisonette:
- Purpose-built blocks of flats and maisonettes are built to give you some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames and smoke for a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes.
- You are usually safer staying in your own flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you. If you are in your flat, stay put and call 999. Tell London Fire Brigade where you are and the best way to reach you.
- If you are within the common parts of the building, leave and call 999.
Home fire safety

KEEP YOUR PURPOSE-BUILT FLAT OR MAISONETTE SAFE

Fit smoke alarms and test them monthly

- A fire can start anywhere in the home so early detection is vital.
- Fit smoke alarms in all rooms such as the lounge and bedrooms.
- Include landings and hallways but not kitchens or bathrooms because steam can cause false alarms.
- Fit a heat alarm in your kitchen which can detect the increase in temperature caused by a fire but will not be set off by cooking fumes or steam.

Fire risks exist in rooms where:
- Electrical equipment is left switched on or on charge.
- People smoke.
- Candles, incense sticks or naked flames are used.
- Portable heaters are used.

Smoking

- The best and safest option is not to smoke, but if you are not ready to quit:
  - Never smoke in bed or anywhere you could fall asleep.
  - Never throw cigarettes out of your window or balcony, make sure you put them right out.
  - Do not leave any type of lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
  - Use proper ashtrays and never throw hot ash into the bin.

Candles and matches

- Candles, tea lights and incense burners should only be placed in stable, heat-resistant holders and should not be left unattended. They should be kept well away from curtains, furniture and clothes.

Heating and electrics

- Sit at least one metre away from heaters.
- Never put a heater near curtains, furniture and clothes.
- Don’t overload electrical sockets.

Communal areas, stairs and balconies

- Never store anything in communal areas including balconies. Items can block your escape route and be a fire risk.
- Don’t use your balcony for barbeques.

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