



GENERAL FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

- Your home is fitted with a smoke and/or heat detection system.
- **NEVER** interfere or tamper with the smoke or fire alarms system, unless it is to check it is working or to change a battery
- **Regularly** test your fire alarm and/or smoke alarm to make sure it is working, ideally once a week.
- If you have chosen to install additional battery powered smoke or heat detectors in your home, you should be checking them regularly and replacing batteries as required.
- At night, keep a torch handy in case of a power outage and make sure the main door keys are close at hand.
- **NEVER** interfere with fire doors in your home by removing door closers, painting over intumescent seals or replacing with a non-fire-rated door / frame.

Be prepared. Give some thought to what you would do if there was a fire in your home, how would you get out? how would your children get out? Escaping from a fire will be easier if you have planned an escape route. Whilst the risk of fire is low it is essential to be prepared in advance!

PREVENTING A FIRE STARTING IN YOUR HOME

Cooking:

- If you are tired avoid cooking. If you've been drinking alcohol, don't cook.
- When cooking, never leave the cooker unattended.
- Keep the area around the cooker clear and free from combustible materials e.g. tea towels, dish cloths, kitchen roll
- If you grill fatty foods, clean the grill pan every time you use it, as fat deposits build up and can easily catch fire.
- Use a deep fat fryer instead of a chip pan and never over fill with oil or fat.
- Never leave your cooker, grill or oven on when you go out – even on a timer.
- Never leave electrical wires or cords near the cooker.
- Avoid keeping anything on top of an eye-level grill.
- Never put anything metal in a microwave – even tin foil.

Smoking:

- Do not leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- If you smoke, take extra care to ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished in a suitable container.
- Empty ashtrays when they become full into a non-combustible container or bin. Ensure contents are cold.
- Never smoke in a chair/bed if you are tired and think you may doze off smoking is one of the main causes of house fires.
- If you use oxygen for medical reasons, ensure that our housing staff are aware of this and follow all instructions and guidance provided by your pharmacist or supplier on safe use and storage – Do Not Smoke When Using Oxygen.

Electrical Appliances and Extension Leads:

- Never use appliances with worn, frayed or singed leads
- Don't overload plug sockets or extension leads.
- Avoid using extension leads that are too long but don't 'double up' extension leads that are too short!
- Unplug appliances when not in use
- Avoid using non-manufacturer supplied chargers, particularly phone and tablet chargers
- Keep electrical appliances clean and in good working order for example fluff caught in the lint trap of a tumble dryer should be removed before next use.
- Make sure an appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it.
- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overloading

Candles and Heaters:

- Avoid using candles in your home but if used never leave candles on or near any flammable materials.
- Avoid the use of radiant electric fires
- If using an open fire never leave unattended without a fire guard and make sure chimneys are swept annually.
- Under the terms of your tenancy, portable heaters (paraffin or gas bottle heaters) should **never** be used.

Before going to bed:

- Make sure the cooker is turned off.
- Switch off and unplug all electrical appliances except those that are meant to stay on, like a fridge.
- Stub out all cigarettes and always empty ashtrays having ensured contents are completely extinguished.
- Close all doors – it can keep your escape route free from smoke and may stop a fire spreading.
- If you use an electric blanket, turn it off when you get into bed and never use an electric blanket and hot water bottle together. Never Smoke in Bed: Smoking is one of the main causes of house fires.

IF I LIVE IN A HOUSE AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A FIRE...

- Keep calm and make sure everyone leaves immediately.
 - Raise the alarm, dial 999, ask for the Fire and Rescue Service and tell them your home address and location.
 - Check doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If it's warm, don't open it – the fire could be on the other side.
 - Leave the building using the nearest available fire exit.
- Do not**
- Stop to collect belongings or investigate what has happened.
 - Delay your exit or block escape routes.
 - Return to the building unless instructed to do so by a Fire Officer.

If a fire breaks out outside your home:

- Keep calm. If it is safe to do so remain indoors and await advice from Túath staff or Fire and Rescue Services personnel.
- Close all doors, go to an open window and wait for the arrival of the Fire and Rescue Service.
- The decision to evacuate the building will be made by a Senior Fire Officer

IF I LIVE IN AN APARTMENT AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A FIRE...

- Keep calm and make sure everyone leaves immediately.
- If it is safe to do so, close all doors behind you as you leave the apartment. This will slow down the spread of flames and help protect people and your belongings from fire.
- Raise the alarm by activating a fire alarm point; this will automatically raise the alarm. Alternatively, dial 999, ask for the Fire and Rescue Service and tell them your home address and location.
- Check doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If it's warm, don't open it – the fire could be on the other side.
- Leave the building as quickly as possible. Follow the Green Running Man signs.
- Go to the assembly point (this is normally located in the car park or another external area) and wait for further instructions.

Do not:

- Stop to collect belongings or investigate what has happened.
- Use the Lift (if applicable).
- Block the corridors or delay your exit.
- Return to the building or leave the assembly area unless instructed to do so by a Fire Officer or staff member.

If the fire is not in your home but the building fire alarm sounds:

- Keep calm.
- Close all doors, go to an open window and wait for the arrival of the Fire and Rescue Service.
- When instructed to do so by a staff member or Fire and Rescue Personnel; leave your apartment and follow the Green Running Man signs.
- If it is safe to do so, close all doors behind you as you leave your home. This will slow down the spread of flames and help protect people and your belongings from fire.
- Go to the assembly point (this is normally located in the car park or another external area) and await further instructions.