

Fire Safety Advice

Following recent advice from the Corporation's Fire Officer this is to remind you of what you should do in the event of a fire and of precautions you should take to prevent fires occurring. The Fire Officer has given additional advice contained in this guide so please destroy any previous communications on these matters.

You must ensure that you are familiar with the means of escape (details are given in the Residential Handbook) and that you do not impede access to these escape routes.

Barbican Estate buildings have been built to protect residents in the event of a fire. The important thing to remember is that if a fire starts in your home, it is up to you to make sure you can vacate the premises.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL A FIRE OCCURS - read this guide and decide the best way for you and your family to get out of your home or out of the building if there is a fire elsewhere. There may be more than one way to get out. If you and all other people in the building observe the following rules you will be much safer and less likely to start a fire or be injured in one.

The following instructions are **VERY IMPORTANT**.

AT ALL TIMES

- Make sure that smoke alarms (if fitted) in your home are working. If not fitted consider installing them to give vital early warning of fire.
- Do not store anything in your hall or corridor, especially things that will burn easily.
- Use the fixed heating system in your home. If this is not possible, use only a convector heater in your hall or corridor. Do not use any form of radiant heater, especially one with either a flame (calor gas or paraffin) or a radiant element (electric bar fire).
- Use rooms only for their proper purpose, that is for sleeping, sitting in or cooking. Do not use them as workshops or for storage. Do not store anything in areas where meters are fitted.
- Keep all staircases, landings and balconies clear of obstructions. Someone else's escape may depend upon it.
- Do not block access to the building. It is important that access roads to blocks of dwellings should be left clear at all times to allow the Fire Brigade and the emergency vehicles to reach the scene of an incident.

IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT IN YOUR HOME

- Leave the affected room **immediately** together with anybody else. Close the door behind you.
- Do not stay behind and try to put the fire out.
- Tell everybody else in your home about the fire and get everyone to leave. Close your front door and leave the building.
- Only use the balcony if it is part of the escape route and you are not able to use your normal exit route.
- **DO NOT USE THE LIFT.**
- **CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE** (see below).

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR OF A FIRE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE BUILDING

- It will often be safe for you to stay in your home.
- **CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE.**
- Close all doors and windows. If smoke or heat affects your flat, leave at once.
- If necessary, the Fire Brigade will advise you to leave your home. Evacuation of buildings should only be undertaken by the Fire Brigade.

SOURCES OF FIRE

Most fires are caused by carelessness or misuse of appliances - for example:

- Careless use of cooking appliances, particularly chip pans.
- Careless use of matches and smoking materials.
- Airing clothes or other combustible materials close to sources of heat such as storage or convector heaters which restricts the necessary free circulation of air.
- Do not leave any appliance e.g. tumble dryer on when you are not at home.
- Absence of adequate fire guards.
- Poor servicing of domestic appliances such as electric blankets.
- Use or siting of portable heaters close to furniture and curtains.
- Failure to disconnect radio, television or other appliances at night or when away from home.
- Children playing with fire.
- Covering of storage or convector heaters which restricts the necessary free circulation of air.