



ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Escaping Fire

What to do if there is a fire

Fitting a smoke alarm is the first crucial step to protecting yourself from fire. But what would you do if it went off during the night?

Plan a safe escape

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.



What to do if there is a fire



**Get out, stay
out and call 999**

- Don't tackle fires yourself. Leave it to the professionals.
- Keep calm and act quickly. Get everyone out as soon as possible.
- Don't waste time investigating what's happened or rescuing valuables.
- If there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
- Before you open a door, check if it's warm. If it is, don't open it – fire is on the other side.
- Call 999 as soon as you're clear of the building. 999 calls are free.

What to do if your escape is blocked

- If you can't get out, get everyone into one room, ideally with a window and a phone.
- Put bedding around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke, then open the window and call "HELP FIRE".
- If you're on the ground or first floor, you may be able to escape through a window.

- Use bedding to cushion your fall and lower yourself down carefully. Don't jump.



- If you can't open the window, break the glass in the bottom corner. Make jagged edges safe with a towel or blanket.

How to escape from a high rise building

In July 2011, the Local Government Group produced a guidance document on 'Fire safety in purpose-built blocks of flats', which has the following advice.

- Purpose-built flats are designed to be fire-resisting. A fire should not spread from one flat to another, so you should not need to leave your home if there is a fire elsewhere in the block. That said, if in doubt, get out.
- Always leave if your flat is affected by smoke or heat or if told to do so by firefighters.
- Your stairway is designed to be safe for escape throughout the course of a fire. Always use the stairway to descent to ground level if escaping.

Additional messages include:

- Avoid using lifts and balconies if there is a fire.
- It is easy to get confused in smoke, so count how many doors you need to go through to reach the stairs.
- Check there is nothing in the corridors or stairways that could catch fire – like boxes or rubbish.
- Make sure doors to stairways are not locked.
- Make sure everyone knows where the fire alarms are.
- You should still get a smoke alarm for your own flat even if there is a warning system in the block.

