

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN YOUR HOME

You are responsible for safeguarding your house or flat against fire, whether you own or rent it. According to the fire regulations, a smoke detector and a fire extinguisher are required in every home, regardless of whether you live there all year round or only use it for leisure purposes. The fire department recommends that you install a stationary fire hose or a fire extinguisher. In addition to reminding you about these safety rules, we would like to give you some advice.

Smoke detectors

These should be fitted as high up on the wall as possible, or preferably in the ceiling. Don't forget to put smoke detectors in your kitchen and in your living room and that you will be able to hear them in case they go off at night. If you have a large home you should buy smoke alarms that can be interlinked. When one alarm goes off, the others will also be released. Once a fire breaks out, it will only take a few minutes and the room will be completely wrapped up in flames. In cases of slow-burning fires and kettles left on the stove, an optical smoke detector will be the most efficient.

Testing

The beeping mechanism will be released when you press the test button. You should check this function at least twice a year, after your summer holiday and at Christmas time, for instance. A personal check-up schedule is recommended.

How fires are started

You will find electrical appliances that may cause a fire in almost every home. A good safety rule is only to use these when you are able to watch them. For instance, a dish washer or a washing machine should not be left unattended. If you have a coffee maker, don't forget to pull out the plug and turn your TV off completely. A kettle left to boil will soon start a fire and the insurance company will reduce your indemnities accordingly.

Useful information concerning lamps and candles

Candles create a pleasant atmosphere, but they also heighten the risk for fires. Make sure that you use candle holders that are safe in terms of fire and avoid additional candle decoration. Be careful when you light candles in your home and never leave the house without blowing them out. Your insurance company will reduce your indemnities when such accidents happen. Also, burns on your lamp shades or dark stains in the ceiling are signs that the bulbs are too strong and need to be changed. Lamp shades also need to be replaced. Make sure not to keep inflammable material too close to electric heaters, for instance curtains or drying clothes. Electric fans should only be used when somebody is at home.

Please make sure that these fire instructions are read by all members of the household

Actions to be taken in case of fire

Be prepared for a possible fire in your home and check the following regularly:

1. Means of escape in case of fire.
2. Check your smoke detector minimum twice a year.
3. Make sure the fire extinguisher is available and working.

If fire breaks out

1. A small fire you can put out yourself by means of the fire equipment you have.

Try to prevent the fire from spreading, by keeping windows and doors shut.

In cases of a major fire you must get people out and into safety and then get out of the building yourself.

2. Contact the the fire brigade immediately. Use your own phone when possible, or borrow your neighbour's .110 is the national emergency code. Don't forget to give the following information :

Your name (The person calling)

Previous events (What caused the fire)

Your address (Where you are calling from)

THE EMERGENCY CODE FOR FIRE IS 110

Treat burns at once by cooling down. You can use cold water which then is gradually heated to 20 degrees centigrade. The cooling should last for at least 30 minutes and up to 3 hrs. Call a doctor for further treatment.

Cigarette smoking

Smoking is a well-known cause for fire. You should never smoke in bed. When you give a party, make sure you have large enough ashtrays and put some water in them for safety . Don't empty your ashtrays until you are completely sure that they do not contain any burning ashes .

Chimneys, iron stoves and open fireplaces

All fireplaces must be approved. Check-ups should be performed regularly, at least once a year. If you discover any cracks, inform the fire authorities.