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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
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Government

High Rise Domestic Building Fire Safety Toolkit



Background: High Rise Fire Safety

Immediately after the Grenfell tragedy in June 2017, a Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on Building and Fire Safety was set up in Scotland. The MWG oversaw a review of building and fire safety regulatory frameworks, and any other relevant matters, in order to help ensure that people are safe in Scotland's buildings and make any recommendations for improvement as required.

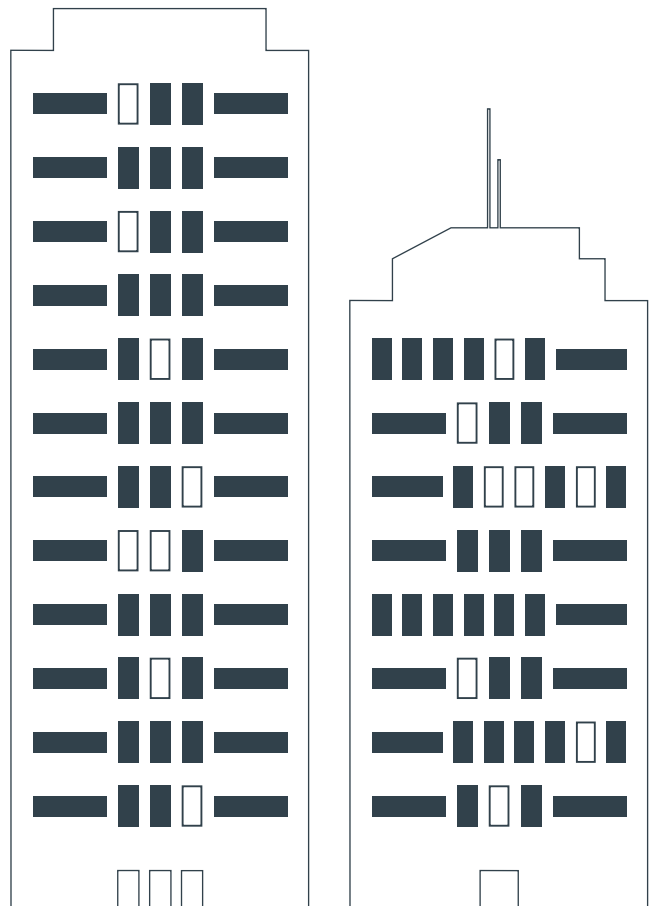
The MWG commissioned a review of the Scottish Fire Safety Regime for Domestic High Rise property, which looked at the legislation in place regarding fire safety in high rise domestic buildings in Scotland. Following the review, 6 recommendations were made to strengthen, support and clarify existing guidance. The recommendations were:

1. Develop specific fire safety guidance aimed at all residents of high rise domestic buildings.
2. Introduction of Scottish guidance concerning 'Fire safety in purpose built blocks of flats'.
3. Introduction of Scottish guidance concerning fire risk assessments.
4. A consistent position regarding the storage, removal and enforced prohibition of combustible materials in common areas.
5. A fire safety campaign relative to common areas.
6. Introduction of Scottish guidance concerning 'Fire safety in specialised housing'.

How you can help

This toolkit contains helpful links to the guidance that has been published, following a public consultation, as a part of this work, as well as copies of the fire safety information leaflets for residents, and a poster regarding fire safety in common areas.

You can help to keep high rise domestic buildings safe from fire by following the links provided at the end of the toolkit and reading the relevant information you find there. Sharing the information and messages within this toolkit will also help to raise awareness of how to reduce fires and improve fire safety for those who live in the building as well.



Fire Safety Information for residents

We developed a fire safety leaflet aimed at residents to give them information on how to prevent fires in the home and what to do in the event of a fire. One thing we heard from those who attended events and responded to the consultation was that specific advice and information on 'stay put' would be helpful, and this is included in the leaflet.

How you can help

In December 2019-January 2020, the Scottish Government undertook an exercise to deliver the fire safety leaflet and a letter providing some background to over 45,000 residents of high rise domestic buildings. We would ask anyone who has a role in providing information to new residents of buildings, to consider printing out the leaflet and including it as part of any welcome or tenancy pack that is handed out.

https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/2113380/high_rise_fire_safety_campaign_leaflet_final.indd.pdf

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A FIRE IN YOUR BUILDING

1 Fire resisting cavity barriers around windows
2 Self closing device (various kinds)
3 Fire resisting door, walk and floors

STAY PUT, STAY SAFE
Most high rise domestic buildings are built with the principle of 'stay put' in mind. This means that flats will be designed to resist the spread of fire. Because of this, a fire is not likely to spread from one flat to another. If there is a fire in your building - but not in your flat - you should stay in your home and keep the front door closed **unless**:
• you are directly affected by heat, smoke or fire
• or the Fire and Rescue Service or Police tells you to get out

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED
It is rare for people to be trapped by fire. If you are:
• Go to a 'safe room' which should have a window and a phone and gather everyone there.
• Call the Fire and Rescue Service and pack bedding or towels around the door to keep out smoke.
• Open the window to breathe clean air and try attracting attention by waving a sheet if it is safe to do so.

FOR MORE ADVICE
Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk, or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on our website, in your local library and in the phone book.

TO BOOK A FREE HOME SAFETY VISIT
Call 0800 0731 999, Text 'FIRE' to 80800 or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk

KEEPING YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE FROM FIRE IN YOUR HIGH RISE BUILDING

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999

USE AND KEEP THIS LEAFLET
Make sure everyone in your home is clear on these actions. Put it somewhere handy to remind you - pinned to the wall or the fridge door.

ACTIONS TO STOP FIRES HAPPENING

AT HOME

IN THE KITCHEN

- Never leave cooking unattended - keep an eye on your cooker when it is on.
- Deep fat fryers or oven chips are much safer than using open chip pans.
- If you use a chip pan do not fill it up too much (no more than 1/3 full).

SMOKING

- Make sure cigarettes are put out properly in a sturdy ashtray.
- Don't smoke in a chair if you have been drinking alcohol or feel sleepy.
- Do not smoke when sleepy or in bed.
- Keep lighters and matches away from children.

ELECTRICS

- Do not overload sockets by plugging in too many electrical appliances.
- Turn electrical appliances off at the wall, this is safer than leaving them on standby.
- Don't leave appliances on when sleeping or out of the house - this includes washing machines, dishwashers and tumble driers.

COMMON AREAS

STAIRS, HALLS AND CORRIDORS

- Make sure stairs, landings and corridors are clear for escape. Remove coats, bags and other objects that could get in the way.
- If you have arranged for items to be taken away, do not leave these in common areas.
- Make sure all rubbish is disposed of properly using the communal bins provided.
- If you have questions about common areas, contact the person that manages your building.

PREPARE FOR ESCAPE AND GET EARLY WARNING

AT HOME

- Close all doors when you go to bed - especially the doors to the lounge and kitchen.
- Plan an escape route out of your home and keep it clear so you can leave quickly if you have to.
- Make sure everyone knows the escape plan.
- Make sure you've got working smoke and heat alarms, and test them weekly.

IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE

- Get out as quickly as you can, closing doors behind you to stop smoke and fire spread.
- Use the stairs to get down to the ground floor - never take the lift.
- Once you get out, call the Fire and Rescue Service and stay out.

TO RAISE THE ALARM

If the fire is where you are - in your home or in a common area - leave the building immediately if it is safe to do so and call the Fire and Rescue Service on 999. Tell other residents if you can, but don't put yourself at risk.

Common areas fire safety campaign

A poster campaign was highlighted as the preferred option to promote fire safety in common areas during the public consultation. We developed a simple eye catching poster that clearly sets out the key messages for safety in this area. It gives instructions on what to do, makes clear that fire in areas such as stairs and corridors can have real consequences, and provides appropriate contact information to report any issues and concerns.

How you can help

We would ask anyone who has a role in fire safety in buildings to consider printing the poster out and putting up in appropriate places throughout the building. Importantly, we would ask that relevant contact information is provided on the poster so that residents can report issues and concerns. We heard via the engagement events and consultations that residents sometimes found it difficult to know what to do about items left in the hallways and stairs; by providing this information in an easy to find place you can help to resolve any issues quickly.

https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/2196428/fire_safety_a3_poster.pdf

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KEEP IT CLEAR

Help to avoid fire in your high rise building by following the actions below:

- Make sure stairs, landings and corridors are clear. Remove rubbish, prams and other objects that could burn or get in the way
- Smoke from a fire in a common stairway can kill
- Items left in the stair can make escape more difficult and stop firefighters from getting to a fire in the building
- Report issues and concerns to whoever is responsible for fire safety in your building

Tel/Email:

Fire Causes Real Damage and Harm

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk, or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on our website, in your local library and in the phone book.
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IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999

Further Information

In December 2019 we launched our Practical Fire Safety Guidance for Existing High Rise Domestic Buildings. The Guidance is for those responsible for fire safety in high rise domestic buildings. This includes owners, managers, property factors, property advisors and landlords, managing agents, enforcing authorities and those assessing fire risk in high rise domestic buildings.

The Guidance provides practical fire safety advice on how to prevent fires and reduce the risks from fires in high rise domestic buildings. It aims to assist the assessment of fire risk, the adequacy of existing fire safety measures, and includes a framework for managing combustible items left in the common areas of the building. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/practical-fire-safety-guidance-existing-high-rise-domestic-buildings/>

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service website has a wide range of information that might be useful to you: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/>

The Scottish Government website contains a number of useful documents and information regarding fire safety and fire legislation: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/fire-and-rescue/>

You can find more information on the work of the Building and Fire Safety Ministerial Working Group here: <https://www.gov.scot/groups/ministerial-working-group-building-and-fire-safety/>

If you have any questions about this toolkit please contact the Fire and Rescue Unit in St Andrew's House:

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