

What does KHT do to manage and reduce the risks of fire in your home?

KHT undertake a series of measures to ensure that your home is safe and protected from the risks associated with fire. Some of these are high-lighted below:

- Weekly inspections of communal areas in high rise blocks to identify any potential breaches in fire safety,
- 24/7/365 monitoring of fire alarm systems (where installed). If the system detects heat/smoke, the monitoring station will call the fire service who will attend the affected location.
- Regular routine maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems, emergency lights, smoke ventilation systems and dry risers (where installed).
- Undertake a Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) on all high and low-rise blocks within our portfolio. Identifies any risks and the actions required for us to remove or reduce these as far as is reasonably practicable.

What can you do as a tenant to reduce the risks of fire in your home?

Most fires can be avoided if simple rules are followed:

- Do not use or store gas cylinders, paraffin, petrol or other highly flammable liquids in your home.
- Never place candles on or near materials that could burn or catch fire like curtains. Only ever use candles if they are in a stable holder and never leave candles unattended.
- Keep matches away from children where they cannot reach them.
- Never overload plug sockets.
- Never leave cookers unattended, particularly if using chip pans and keep children away from the kitchen while you are cooking.
- Report any broken switches, sockets, light fittings, exposed wiring etc. to the KHT Contact Centre who will arrange a repair. If your own electrical items have exposed wires, stop using them and arrange for it to be repaired or replaced.

- Communal areas should be kept clear at all times. Items in these areas may catch fire or obstruct your escape route and may hinder the movement of the emergency services.
- Doors are designed to be self-closing to slow down the spread of fire to other areas in a building, so don't wedge them open.
- Place rubbish in small bags when using the refuse chute. A blocked chute can back up quickly and become a fire hazard.
- Don't smoke in any communal areas including landings, lifts, stairs and foyers. It's the law, and is for you and your neighbours' safety.

Do some simple checks before you got to bed:

1. Close internal doors. If a fire does breakout, this will assist in ensuring it is contained within that area.
2. Unplug electrical items (but not things like fridges and freezers).
3. Check that the cooker is turned off and do not leave the washing machine on overnight.
4. Leave your door keys in a convenient position close to the door, but away from the reach of burglars.
5. Check doors to the outside are clear and free from obstructions.
6. If you smoke, make sure you put cigarettes out properly, and don't smoke in bed or while sleepy.

What to do in the event of a fire breaking out in your home

Advice from Merseyside Fire and Rescue is as follows:

Know Your Escape Plan

- Make sure you are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures
- Make an escape plan so that you and your family know what to do if there is a fire in your flat.
- Practice this plan, make sure everyone understands it and knows where the door key is.

Should a fire Break Out

- If it is too dangerous to follow your planned escape route because stairs and hallways are full of smoke, ring 999 and stay inside the safest room. Keep the doors closed and use towels or bedding to block the smoke at the bottom of the door.
- Use the stairs, not the lift, when leaving the building in the event of a fire.

- If there is a fire in another flat in the building, you are usually safest in your own home unless you are affected by the heat or smoke.
- If there is a fire, never assume that someone else has called 999 – make the call yourself.

In addition

- Try to remain calm and do not panic.
- Alert everyone else in the property to the fire.
- Check doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If they are warm do not open them, the fire may be on the other side.
- If you have a balcony, never use this to escape from unless it forms part of an official escape route.
- Never go back into the building until the Fire Service have advised that it is safe to do so.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact:

- Website - www.k-h-t.org
- Telephone - 0151 290 7000
- Head Office - First Ark, Lakeview, Kings Business Park, Prescot, L34 1PJ
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service - 0800 731 5958

