

Quality Homes in Quality Neighbourhoods



St. Leger Homes

OF DONCASTER



FIRE SAFETY IN HIGH RISE FLATS

Welcome

This booklet contains important information about fire safety.

It has been written specifically for tenants and residents of high-rise flats.

It informs you about the arrangements St Leger Homes has in place to help prevent the spread of fire. And the steps you can take to prevent fire.

Advice on what to do in the event of a fire including our “Stay Put” policy.

Where to go if you need more information and advice.

Please read this booklet carefully it could help keep you and your family safe.

If you require help understanding this booklet please contact your Estates Team

Introduction

We have upgraded the flats you live in to enhance fire safety, our aim is to ensure that, in the unlikely event of a fire, it is contained within the flat and will not spread beyond it. As part of the upgrade you have been provided with new front doors that reduce the risk of fire spreading from the flat.

Hard wired smoke alarms have been fitted to all properties which will alert you of a fire in your flat.

The communal areas, corridors, stairs and foyer are 'sterile areas' which means there is nothing in those areas that will burn.

If there is a fire that is not in your flat we have a STAY PUT policy. This means you stay in your flat if there is a fire anywhere else in the building.

If the fire is in your flat dial 999 giving as much detail as possible and leave the flat closing the door behind you.

Sprinklers have been installed in the bin stores and are being installed in each property and CCTV has been fitted along with controlled access to the building to enhance security.

These arrangements mean that we will no longer need fire detection in the communal areas of the building and have disabled the fire detection in these communal areas.

This leaflet is designed to provide you with the information you need to prevent a fire and stay safe should a fire start and to let you know that unless the fire is in your flat you should stay put unless told otherwise.

Fire safety in high rise flats

If you take precautions against fire, you are not at any more risk from fire because you are living in a high-rise flat.

High-rise flats are built to be fireproof. Doors, walls and ceilings will hold back flames and smoke. Most fires don't spread further than one or two rooms.

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 you become aware of a fire in a communal area you are safest to stay in your flat, because the communal areas are sterile and free from materials that can burn a fire cannot spread.



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WHAT TO DO IF THE FIRE IS OUTSIDE YOUR FLAT

If you smell smoke in the communal area
phone 999 and

STAY PUT

Unless advised by the Fire Service to evacuate.

Your flat is your safe refuge from fire

- Stay there and close all doors and windows
- If your front door starts to feel warm to the touch, pack cushions, bedding, pillows or towels at the bottom of the door to block the smoke
- If you have any sticky tape, put that around the door to seal it
- Wet the door with water if it starts getting hotter
- Open the window and wave something colourful like a shirt to let the fire fighters know that you are there



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If there is a fire in your flat

- Keep calm
- Shout to let everyone in your flat know, then get out and close the door behind you
- Don't stop for valuables, your life is more important
- Don't go looking for the fire
- Don't open doors if they are warm to touch. If there is a lot of smoke, crawl on the floor, the air will be clearer there
- **Phone the Fire & Rescue Service. Call 999 – it's free from any phone, do not return until told it is safe to do so**



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Make an escape plan for your home

You don't have to be an expert, just think it through. How would you and your family members get out?

- Plan to make one room your 'safe room' in case you can't escape. It's best if it's a room with a window and a phone
- If you are trapped, go to the balcony or window, but **don't** think about jumping, wait for the fire brigade
- Tell everyone in your home what the escape plan is and tell everyone where the door key is
- Don't use the lifts
- Practice what you would do if you had a real fire



Write down your escape plan in the back of this booklet and keep it handy

If there is a fire in your flat

- If you can't get out because the fire is blocking your escape, get everyone into the 'safe room'
- Pack cushions, bedding, pillows or towels at the bottom of the door to block the smoke
- If you have any sticky tape, put that around the door to seal it. If you have any water, wet the door if it starts getting hot
- Open the window and wave something bright like a shirt to let the fire-fighters know that you are there
- No one should jump from a high-rise, ever



Make sure that you test your smoke alarm

- Press the button to test it once every week. If the alarm doesn't work contact the Repairs Centre on 01302 862862 option 1 to get it repaired
- Smoke alarms should be vacuumed about every six months to remove dust and insects which will reduce false alarms
- If you own your flat you are responsible for repairing or replacing the alarm if it is faulty so test it weekly to be sure. If you need advice please contact the repairs centre on 01302 862862 option 1



Keep your flat safe

- Don't leave cooking unattended
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use and never overload sockets
- Be careful with cigarettes – don't smoke in bed, empty ashtrays often
- Don't leave candles unattended and be aware that tea lights will melt plastic surfaces so use a holder
- Test your smoke detector weekly and change the batteries every year



Do not leave your flat unless you have to

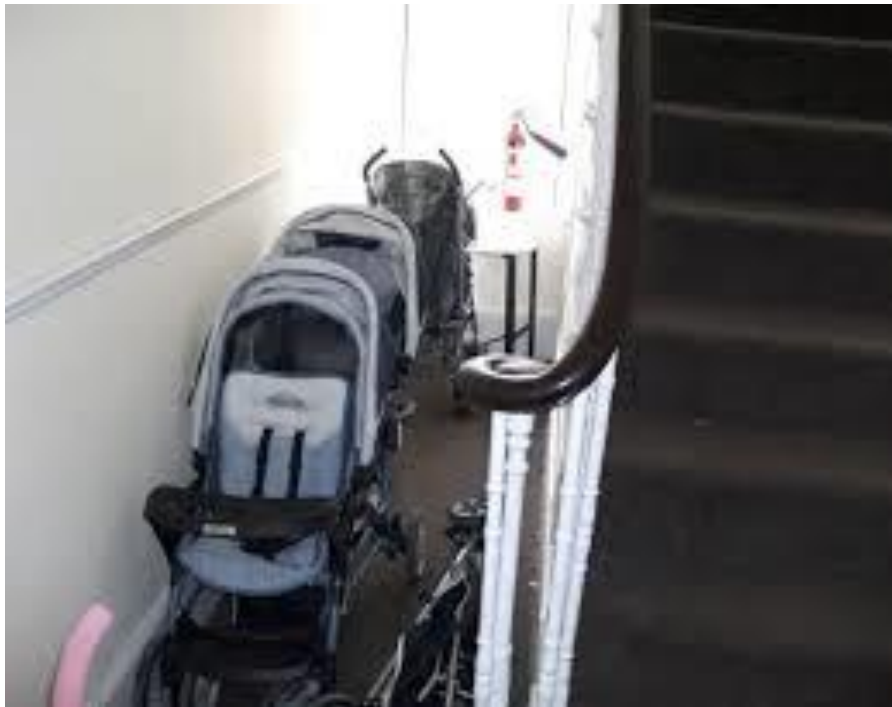
- Only leave the safety of your flat if you are affected by heat or smoke, or if you are told to leave by firefighters or police
- Use the stairs – never use the lift if there is a fire anywhere in the building

MAKE YOUR ESCAPE PLAN NOW!



Keep your escape route clear

- Make sure there is no rubbish in your hallways and report any obstructions you see in shared corridors and stairways
- Never place any items in the communal areas they need to be kept sterile for
- Make sure everyone in your household knows where the stairs and the exits are



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Keeping your building safe

- Never use or store bottled gas cylinders in high-rise flats
- No smoking in communal areas
- Never tamper with dry riser inlets on landings; it could cost lives if they are not working properly when there is a fire. If you see a dry riser vandalised, report it immediately
- Never park so that you block access to high-rise flats. Access roads are designed so that fire appliances can get as close as possible to fight fires



Who to contact for repairs

Report damaged or faulty smoke alarms, fire doors, fire fighting equipment, lifts etc. Promptly to:

St. Leger Homes'
Repairs Contact Centre

**Call on 01302 862862 option 1 (24
hours)**

(mobile charges apply)



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Who to contact for further fire safety advice

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue offers free home safety checks, including the fitting of free smoke alarms where needed.

To sign up, or for more fire safety advice:
Call SYFR's hotline on **0114 253 2314**

Or text FREE to 87023

or e-mail: cfsadmin@syfire.gov.uk



South Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue

WORKING FOR A SAFER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE



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YOUR FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

use this space to write down your escape plan

Make sure everyone knows what the escape plan is and where doorkeys are kept.



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