

General points

Plan for a safe refuge in case you cannot escape from the house. Take the following precautions:

- ✓ Make sure there is a phone or personal alert in the room to call for help.
- ✓ Try to have a room with a window so you can either escape or call out for help (stay by the window).
- ✓ Close the door and seal the bottom with towels or blankets to stop harmful smoke entering.

Call the emergency services.

- ✓ Dial 999 or 112
- ✓ Tell the operator what service you require.
- ✓ Speak calmly and clearly giving the address of the fire and your phone number.
- ✓ Only hang up when the operator tells you to.

Never

- ✗ Re-enter a burning house for personal items.
- ✗ Borrow batteries from the Smoke Alarm.
- ✗ Have mirrors over fireplaces with real fires.



FACTS!

- On average 46 people die each year in fires in this country.
- Fires do not always happen to other people.
- The next fire could be in your home.

Remember:

Be careful when using portable electric / gas / oil heaters.

- Do not use heaters near furniture, curtains, etc.
- Take extreme care if using heaters to dry clothes.
- Never leave heaters on when going to bed.
- Take care if pets are near the heaters.



Fire Safety for the Elderly



Custom House, Dublin 1, Ireland
telephone: +353 1 8882381 facsimile: +353 1 8882645
www.environ.ie firesafety@environ.ie

fire safety
Be on your guard



Prevention

Avoid:

- ✗ Smoking when tired, in bed or on medication.
- ✗ Leaving burning candles unattended.
- ✗ Leaving chip pans, frying pans, etc unattended even for a minute.
- ✗ Standing too close to fires, heaters, etc.
- ✗ Using faulty electrical appliances.
- ✗ Overloading electric sockets.

Make sure to:

- ✓ Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year and heating system serviced regularly.
- ✓ Use a sparkguard with open fires.
- ✓ Use proper holders when burning candles.
- ✓ Keep ashtrays empty when not in use.
- ✓ Have a suitable fire extinguisher and fire blanket in your kitchen.
- ✓ Have faulty electrical appliances repaired or replaced immediately.
- ✓ Close all doors at night time.
- ✓ Carry out a routine fire safety check before going to bed.

FACT!

Some medications can make you feel drowsy so please make sure your home is fire safe before taking the medication. Also avoid smoking or cooking if affected.

For further information on Fire Safety please contact your local Fire Service, Public Health Nurse, Home Help or Meals on Wheels.

Detection

- ✓ A smoke alarm in every room (except the bath room and the garage) will provide maximum protection. A heat alarm should be fitted in the kitchen.
- ✓ Test your smoke alarms at least once a week.
- ✓ Change the batteries every year.
- ✓ When the low battery warning beep sounds change the battery immediately.

Evacuation plan

- ✓ Plan an evacuation drill with all occupants of your home and practice it regularly.
- ✓ When practising your evacuation drill have an alternative exit in case your primary exit is blocked by fire.
- ✓ Have a meeting point in a safe place outside of the house.
- ✓ All escape routes should be kept clear day and night.
- ✓ Keep keys to doors and windows easily and immediately available.

FACT!

Over 1,000 people every year attend casualty units with burns or scald related injuries.
(HIPE & NPRS Unit ESRI)

Routine fire safety check

A "Routine Fire Safety Check" only takes a few minutes but it could mean the difference between Life and Death.

Every night:

- ✓ Unplug all unnecessary electrical appliances.
- ✓ Turn off all unnecessary gas appliances.
- ✓ Extinguish all candles and naked flames.
- ✓ Place a spark guard in front of open fires.
- ✓ Empty all ashtrays.
- ✓ Keep all escape routes completely clear.
- ✓ Close all doors.

