

# HIGH-RISE LIVING



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Enabling people to lead safe and fulfilling lives

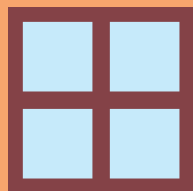
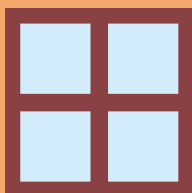
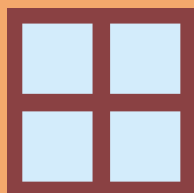
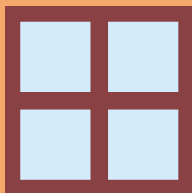
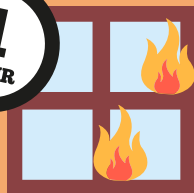
## Living the high life


Living in a high-rise block doesn't mean you are any more at risk from fire, but it does mean you need to consider your fire safety and the impact a fire in your home could have on other residents.

It is important for your own safety, to understand what to do in the event of a fire, whether it's in your flat or somewhere else in the building.

### Did you know?

That most high-rise flats are built to delay the spread of fire for up to an hour.





# Built with your safety in mind

Your building has been designed and built with fire safety in mind.

## Lift access

Never use the lift when evacuating the building. The fire may cause a power failure, trapping you inside.

## Emergency access

Never block emergency access to your building. We need to get as close as possible to the entrance.

## Firefighting equipment

Dry or wet riser pipes run internally through the block and are usually painted red. The pipes provide water to higher floors to tackle fires.

It is important that any damage to this equipment is reported as soon as you see it.

## Do you know your buildings evacuation plan?

Your buildings plan will be either:

### Full evacuation -

When the alarm sounds, get everyone in your flat out of the building using emergency fire exit routes and stairs (don't use the lift).

### Stay put -

Unless the fire is in your flat or a direct neighbours, keep your front door and windows closed. Tune into local TV or radio and await further instructions from the emergency services.

The fire service will knock on your door if they need you to evacuate.

# What to do if there is a fire.

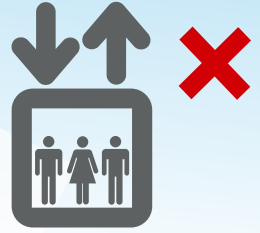
IN YOURS OR  
A NEIGHBOURS FLAT



Leave your flat  
and close the door

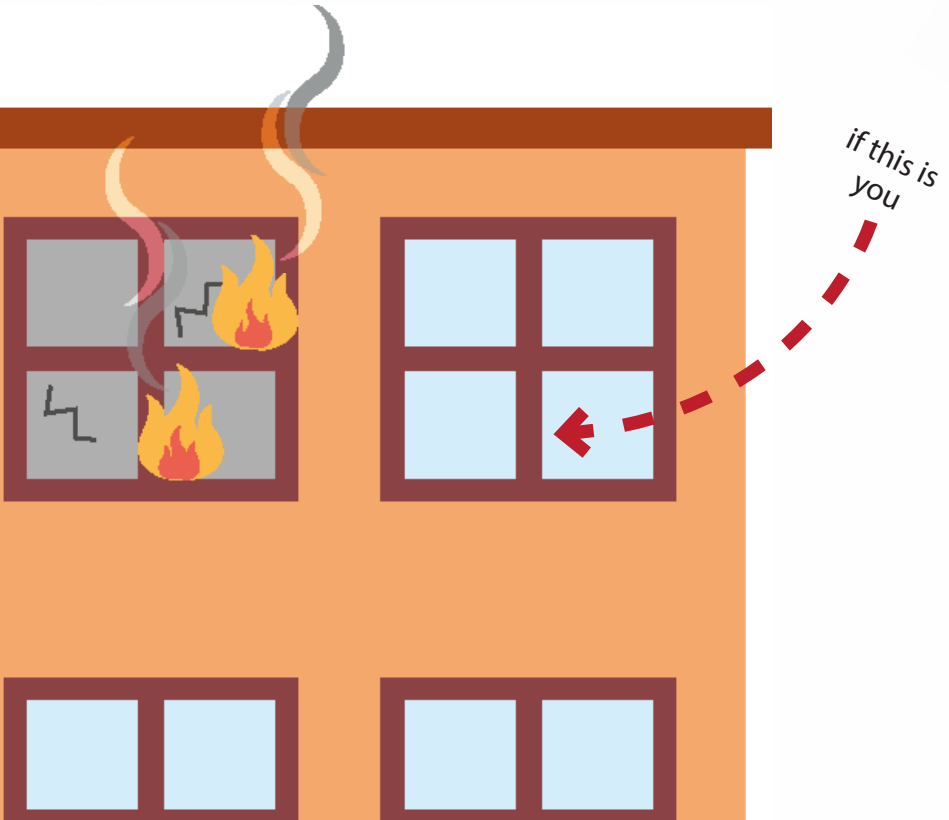


Use the stairs



Never use the lift

Get out, stay out, call 999. Never assume someone has called.



## ELSEWHERE IN YOUR BLOCK

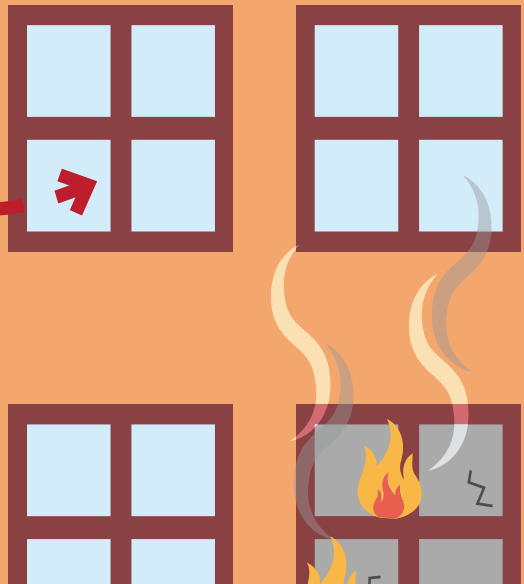
If there is a fire elsewhere in the building then the structure of the flat – walls, floors, and doors – are designed to give appropriate protection. It is important for responsible owners to ensure that high-rise buildings are properly constructed and any refurbishment or maintenance is carried out to compliant standards of fire safety.

If there is a fire in your building but not inside your own home, then you are usually safer to stay in your flat unless the heat or smoke from the fire is affecting you. If you 'stay put' you should still immediately call 999 for advice and to ensure that the fire and rescue service along with attending emergency crews have been notified.

Once a 999 call is made, and firefighters arrive at the fire, then the advice may be reinforced or change depending on the nature and development of the fire, the building and its tenants.

This advice can and does change depending on the circumstances that present themselves at what are very dynamic incidents.

if this is  
you



We'll be there

If you can see the fire service already there, then there is no need to call 999, unless you are unable to leave your flat as the fire service will need to know your flat number.

### Don't be alarmed

Don't be alarmed by the scale of the fire service's presence.

We need a large amount of resources to get our equipment from the ground up to the floor of the fire and to protect our firefighters.



## Protect your home

- » Fit at least one smoke alarm in your flat
- » Don't fit it in your kitchen or bathroom as this may cause false alarms
- » Test once a week
- » Never take the batteries out
- » Always follow the manufacturers advice

## Do you qualify for a free Home Fire Safety Check?

- » Are you over 65 years of age?
- » Do you have any mobility issues?
- » Do you receive any assistance in your home from external agencies?
- » Do you have any visual or auditory impairment?
- » Further information: Home Fire Safety Check Freephone 0800 587 6679



## Be prepared

- » Keep all exits clear, both communal corridors and in your home
- » Keep door and window keys accessible
- » Prepare a grab bag that you can take if you need to be evacuated
  - Think about prescriptions, documents such as your driving licence and passport, spare keys, a mobile phone, charger and a torch
- » Know how to isolate your flats gas, electric and water supply
- » Get to know your neighbours. Are they young, elderly or vulnerable? They may need assistance in an emergency




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## **Contact information:**

 [communitysafety@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:communitysafety@rbfrs.co.uk)

 [rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/home/](http://rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/home/)

 RBFRSOfficial

 RoyalBerksFRS

 Call service administration on  
0118 945 2888 weekdays 9am - 5pm