



Fire safety when moving out



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Whether you are moving into a university halls of residence or into your first home, who has the responsibility to keep you and your household safe?

You do!

But do not panic, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is here to advise you how to keep safe.



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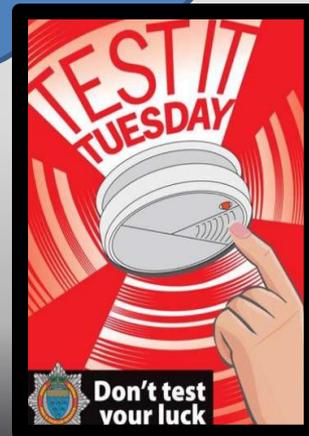
Smoke alarms

Smoke alarms save hundreds of lives every year, but it is essential that they are in the correct place and that they work.

There should be at least one smoke alarm per floor of the building, placed on the ceiling.

Avoid placing alarms near kitchens or bathrooms. They may be activated by cooking or steam.

We recommend you test them weekly. Try to remember *“Test it Tuesday”*.





They may “beep” if the battery is low. Only remove batteries when they need to be replaced.

Some smoke alarms have a 10-year battery life, others the batteries need to be replaced every year.

Do not disconnect or remove batteries if the alarm goes off accidentally. It can often be silenced by pressing the test button.

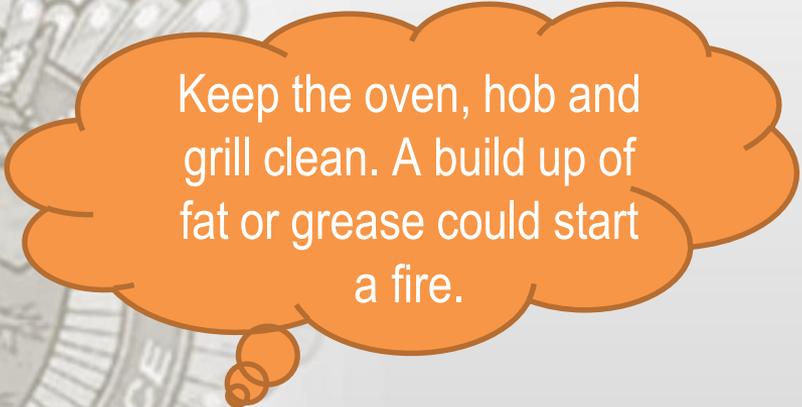


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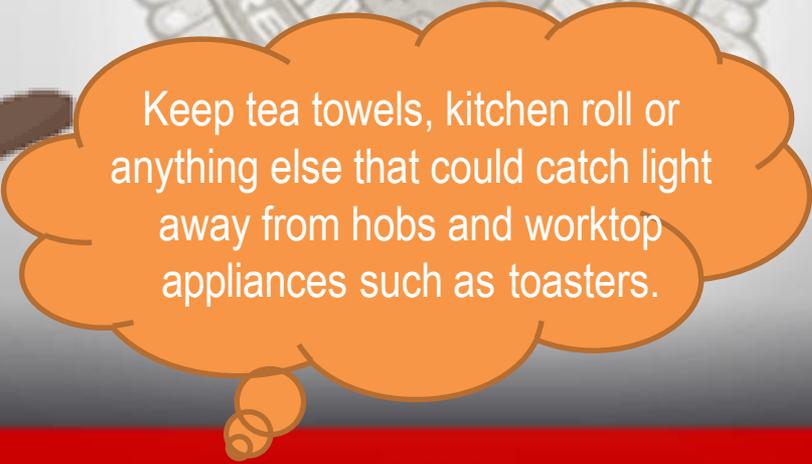
Kitchen safety



Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking if you have been drinking.



Keep the oven, hob and grill clean. A build up of fat or grease could start a fire.



Keep tea towels, kitchen roll or anything else that could catch light away from hobs and worktop appliances such as toasters.





Don't leave the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher running overnight or while you're out. They are a fire risk because of their high wattage, friction and motor.

Never throw water on to a fire involving cooking fat or oil.

If you do have a fire in your home, don't attempt to tackle it yourself. Leave the room, close the door behind you, get out of the house and call 999.

Don't let fire take charge

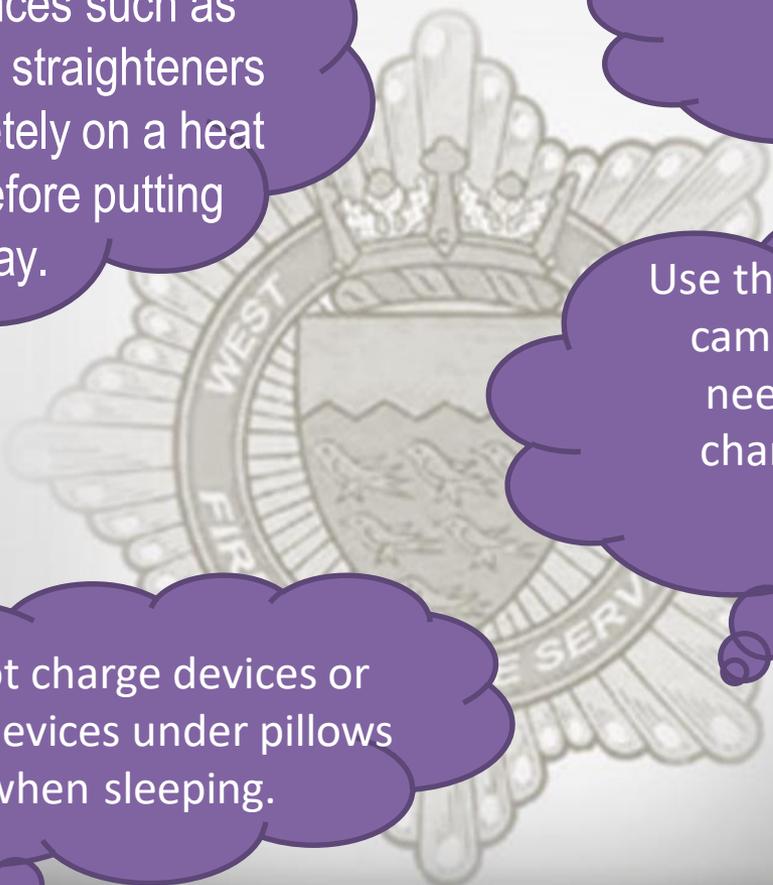
When using or charging laptops place on a solid surface to allow air to circulate.

Do not overload plug sockets or plug multi plugs into each other. WSFRS recommend that block multi plugs are not used.

Remember to unplug chargers and other devices when not in use.



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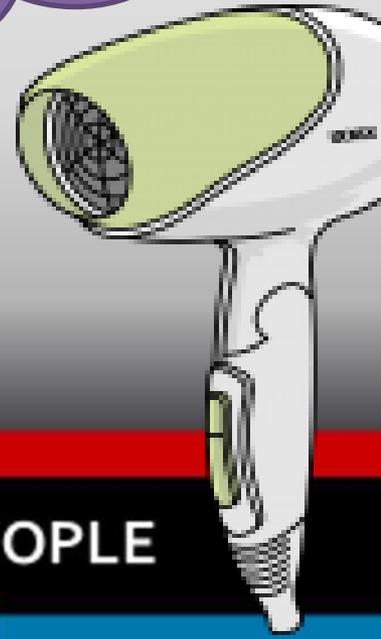


Allow appliances such as hairdryers and straighteners to cool completely on a heat proof mat before putting away.

Do not use damaged cables, they need to be replaced.

Use the correct charger that came with the device, if needed replace with a charger from the same manufacturer.

Do not charge devices or leave devices under pillows when sleeping.



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Reduce the risk



By following this simple advice, you can reduce the risk of a fire where you live and keep yourself and others safe.

Why not share this advice with others to make them aware too?



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Have a bedtime routine

Do not put washing machines, tumble dryers or dishwashers on before you go to bed.

Check that escape routes are clear and keys are accessible.

Turn off electrical appliances that do not need to be left on.



Close internal doors, especially the kitchen door. Doors can hold back smoke and flames for 20 minutes.

Know your escape plan.

Ensure any smoking material is properly extinguished.

Properly extinguish any candles.



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The importance of shutting doors

These images show how important it is to close internal doors before going to bed.

By closing your internal doors, you're containing the fire to that room for up to 20 minutes. It may also protect your escape route.



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Plan an escape route

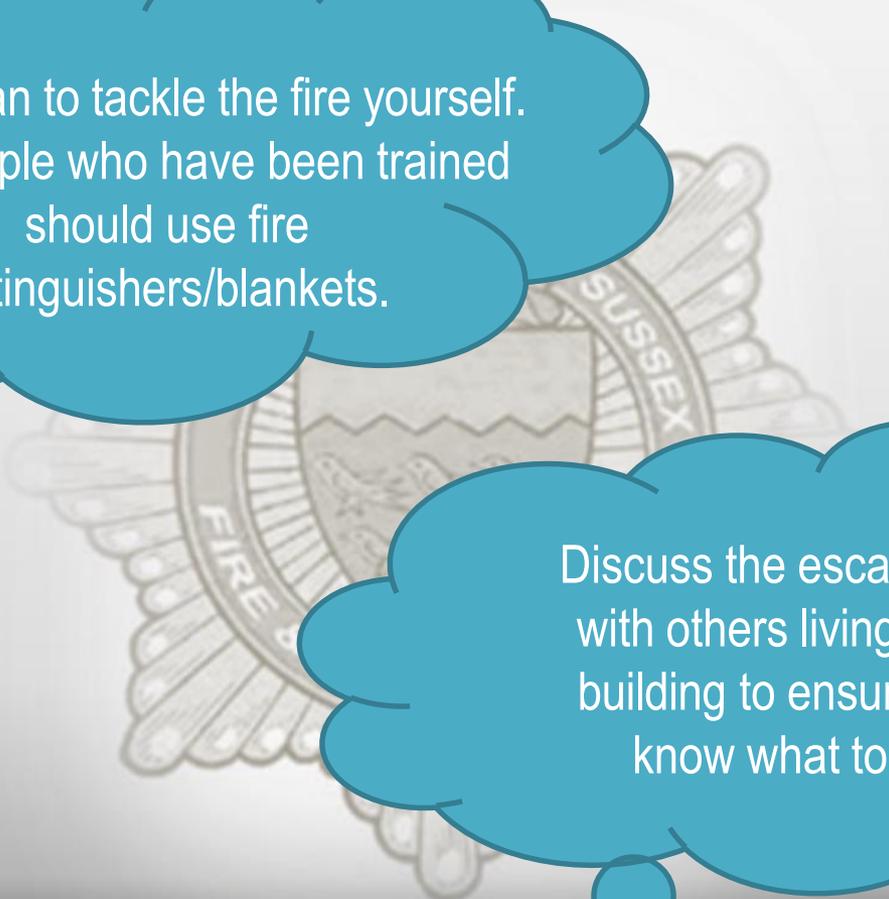
How would you get out of the building if there was a fire? It is important to plan ahead just in case.

Make an escape plan.

Plan a second route out if possible, just in case your first route is blocked by the fire.

Know the quickest and easiest route out of the building. Identify the best exits.

Remember your bedtime routine, if you have closed doors it may protect your escape route.



Do not plan to tackle the fire yourself.
Only people who have been trained
should use fire
extinguishers/blankets.

Discuss the escape plan
with others living in the
building to ensure they
know what to do.

If your smoke alarm goes off at night

If you wake to the fire alarm sounding "SHOUT" to make everyone else aware.

Before opening the bedroom door, check if it is hot by touching the handle with the back of your hand.

Do not open the door. Place blankets or clothes around the edge of the door to prevent smoke from getting in.

Open a window and shout "FIRE" to raise the alarm.

If you have a phone in the room call 999 and ask for the fire service. Stay by the window so you can be seen.

Do not go out of the window unless it is safe to do, for example on a ground floor, or you are unable to stay in the room. Wait to be rescued by the fire service.

NO

Is the door cold?

YES

Open the door carefully and go towards the exit with others in the building. If there is smoke, stay close to the ground.

Exit the building to a place of safety using the nearest exit. **Do not** go back in for anything.

Call 999 and ask for the fire service.



**Remember -
In an emergency:
Get out, stay out,
call 999**



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