

This document was archived on 11 March 2019

PROTECT YOURSELF

Archived

Fire safety  
protect yourself



A safety guide for students  
in rented accommodation.

If you are about to move into a rented property for the first time here's some information on protecting yourself and your belongings from fire.

Did you know



- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette.
- You are more than **twice as likely** to die in a fire if you do not have a working smoke alarm.
- **55% of 18-24 year olds deaths** in fires occurred through misuse of cooking appliances and careless handling of hot substances.
- Cigarettes, smoking materials and candles have been the cause of **1,500 18-24 year olds injuries** over the last 5 years.

Frying, smoking and drinking are all part and parcel of a student lifestyle. But could put you at a higher risk of fire. Safety awareness should not stop when you get home.

Here are some basic survival tips:

- **Don't leave cooking unattended.** And take extra care when frying with oil as this is an extremely common cause of fire. If one does occur NEVER put water on it as it will turn into a fireball.
- **Take extra care when smoking inside** especially if you are drunk or on drugs. Don't smoke in bed and make sure you've extinguished your cigarette properly before you go to sleep.
- **Keep candles away from flammable surfaces** or textiles such as curtains, TV sets or bath tubs and never leave them unattended. Always remember to extinguish them properly before going to sleep.
- **Don't overload plug sockets** and remember to switch off electrical equipment, such as hair straighteners, blow dryers and mobile phone chargers, when not in use.
- **Secure portable heaters** up against a wall, so they don't fall over. Keep them away from curtains and furnishings and never dry clothes on them.
- **Fit a smoke alarm** on each level of the property and test it weekly. Remember, it's your only warning and could save you precious time in your escape.

# March 2019

- **Know your escape route.** Make sure you and your housemates know the quickest way out in the event of fire and consider an alternative route in case your usual one is blocked.
- If a fire starts **get out, stay out and dial 999.**

## Know your rights:

In all properties the landlord must:

Ensure gas appliances are installed and maintained annually by a corgi-registered plumber.

Maintain wiring and electrical appliances they provide to ensure they are safe to use.

Make sure any furniture and furnishings they provide meet the fire resistance regulations.

Log onto [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) for more details about your landlord's responsibilities or contact your local council if you feel these are being deliberately overlooked.

Your local fire and rescue service also offers a free Home Fire Risk Check and smoke alarm fitting service. To book a visit, or to download free DIY advice, log onto [www.fire.gov.uk](http://www.fire.gov.uk)



Visit [www.firekills.gov.uk](http://www.firekills.gov.uk) for more information about the campaign.

