

Remember that if you have consumed alcohol and/or drugs your judgement and decision making will be substantially impaired and you and other residents/tenants will be at risk of fire and fire injury. In particular cooking or smoking whilst under the influence of drugs and or alcohol will place you at considerable additional risk of fire and injury.

## > AVOIDING FALSE ALARMS

Most emergency fire calls to student accommodation are false alarms. Many false alarms are caused by carelessness or negligence and are easily avoidable. Some are due to deliberate actuations of fire detection and warning equipment, misuse or reckless behaviour that can result in the person(s) responsible being reported to the Police and or losing their tenancy.

### Firefighters answering a false alarm could be delayed in saving lives in a real fire.

- Never use sprays directly under smoke detectors
- Never cover a smoke detector head
- Keep bathroom doors closed
- Take extra care if you use candles or incense sticks\*
- Take extra care if you use a portable cooker or heater in your room\*
- Keep your cooker clean to prevent build up of food deposits
- Use foil in your grill and dispose of the foil after use

Smoke alarms are sensitive and can be triggered by:

- Aerosol sprays
- Candles and incense sticks
- Cooking fumes
- Steam from bathrooms and irons
- Smoking materials

\* In halls of residence, it's probably against your accommodation agreement to use candles/incense sticks and portable cookers/heaters in your room.

If you have caused the fire or alarm, make yourself known to the Fire and Rescue Service and explain the circumstances.

## > LEAVING HOME

If you're going to college or university – or starting your first job – you're probably leaving home for the first time. You might be moving into a flat or halls of residence. Wherever you go, you'll be responsible for looking after the place you're living in. That means keeping it safe from fire. It's not just for your own safety. You've also got a responsibility to the people around you and to the community that you're now part of. Fire safety is just common sense. And making sure you've checked out a few basics could be a life saver. You're looking forward to having a great time. Keep it that way.

## > HOAX CALLS, BREAK GLASS POINTS & FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Hoax or false alarm calls are sometimes called 'nuisance calls'. But nuisance calls are not harmless fun. Ever. This includes malicious activation of break glass points; firefighters react to every alarm call they receive, whether it's a phone call or responding to an alarm raised by someone activating a break glass point. If they're answering a false alarm call, they're not available to deal with a real emergency. That can cost lives. People who make hoax calls are prosecuted. The penalty is imprisonment, a fine or both.

Fire extinguishers should never be 'played' with. They are vital, potentially life saving pieces of equipment. Removing or letting off extinguishers at any other time means that if a fire does break out property and lives could be in danger if the extinguishers are not available to use in fully charged, working condition.

Visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

To book a **FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**  
Call **0800 0731 999**  
Text '**FIRE**' to **80800**  
or visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)



@SFRSYourSafety



## Fact.

Whether a **student** in **halls** or a person in your **first flat** you'll be **responsible** for looking after the place you're living in. That means keeping it **safe** from **fire**.



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## > LIVING IN HALLS OF RESIDENCE?

There'll be automatic fire detectors in key areas. They're activated by heat or smoke, and sound an alarm. If you hear a fire alarm, go to your designated assembly point.

There'll be break-glass fire alarms near exit doors. If you discover a fire – or if you suspect there's a fire – break the glass to sound the fire alarm. That will warn other students. Then go to your designated assembly point.

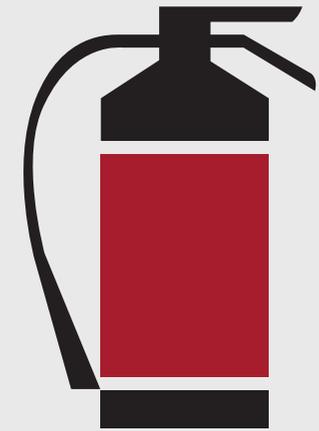
There'll be fire resistant doors in key areas. When they're shut they protect your escape route from smoke and fire. Never wedge fire doors open. It's dangerous to open a door if there's a fire behind it. Touch the handle with the back of your hand. If it's hot, don't open it.

If you discover a fire don't put yourself in danger.

# GET OUT–STAY OUT PHONE THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## > ESCAPE ROUTES, ESCAPE PLANS, ASSEMBLY POINTS

Keep escape routes clear of rubbish, bikes, furniture or any items which could impede your escape. Make sure you have an escape plan. Know how you would get out safely in the event of a fire? When exiting the building make sure you close doors behind you. Closed doors will help slow down the spread of smoke and fire. Make sure you know the assembly point to report to outside.



## > LIVING IN RENTED ACCOMMODATION?

If you're sharing rented accommodation, there's a bigger risk of fire. That's partly because rented accommodation isn't always well maintained. Landlords of private rented housing must provide you with information that provides advice and guidance about your tenancy and safety. In rented accommodation always:

- **Check there are working smoke/heat alarms in the flat and on stairs and landings**
- **Carbon Monoxide detectors should be fitted in all rooms where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance such as boilers, fires (including open fires), gas or paraffin heaters, stoves or a flue**
- **Check there are no bars on the windows and that they can be easily opened from the inside**
- **Check for fire resisting labels on the furniture. Furniture made before 1988 may not be match/fire-resistant. It can catch fire easily and will give off toxic smoke.**

If 3 or more of you are renting/sharing, the landlord must have a licence from the local council for operating a House of Multiple Occupation. If there's no licence, don't rent the property. Report the landlord to the council. If it has a licence, it must have:

- **Smoke/heat alarms to detect and warn of fire**
- **An emergency plan showing the nearest exit**
- **An escape route**
- **Fire extinguishers**