

ASHCOMBE COURT

Fire Action Notice

'Stay Put' Policy

The principle of the 'stay put' policy is based upon flat / room compartmentation and the buildings fire safety provisions.

Since the 1970's buildings have been constructed so that the structure of the flat – walls, floors and doors – are designed to give appropriate resistance from a fire for a specified period of time. The fire resistance of this construction is such that, normally, a fire will burn itself out before spreading to other parts of the building.

In the event of a fire

If the fire is elsewhere in the building:

- In a purpose built residential development such as this it is usually safest to adopt a "Stay Put" policy, unless you feel threatened, the smoke or heat is affecting you or the Fire and Rescue Service instruct you to leave.

If the fire is in your residence:

- Try to remain calm, leave the building in an orderly fashion and if possible make sure that all windows and doors are closed as you leave. Do not stop to collect possessions.
- Do not use a balcony unless it is a designated escape route.

It should not be implied that those not directly involved who wish to leave the building should be prevented from doing so. Nor does this preclude those evacuating a flat that is on fire from alerting their neighbours so that they can also escape if they feel threatened.

Dial 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service, give them the phone number you are calling from and the address where the fire exists. If you have evacuated do not return to the property unless instructed by the Fire Service.

Fire Safety Advice for Residents

Protect you and your household

The easiest way to protect your home and family from fire is with a working smoke alarm. A smoke alarm can provide an early warning of a fire and allow you to make your escape – but only if it is working. You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire if you do not have a working smoke alarm.

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Make sure your smoke alarms meet British and European standards.
- Test your smoke alarms regularly.
- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

You can prevent fire from happening by taking a few simple steps:

- Do not leave cooking unattended and avoid leaving children in the kitchen with cooking on the hob.
- Be especially vigilant when cooking with oil. Do not overfill chip pans and NEVER put water on a chip pan fire.
- Make sure cigarettes are put out properly, use proper ashtrays and do not smoke in bed.
- Do not overload electrical sockets.
- Turn off appliances when not in use.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach and sight of children.
- Make sure candles are secured in proper holders and away from materials that may catch fire.
- Children should not be left alone with candles.

In the common areas:

- **Do not leave your belongings or rubbish in corridors or the stairway.**
- **Do not leave your belongings in the service cupboards.**
- **Do not obstruct exit doors.**
- **Ensure that all fire doors are kept closed shut.**

This could affect you and your neighbours if there is a fire.

Remember:

- Test your smoke alarm regularly.
- Keep the exit route from your flat clear so you can escape in an emergency.
- Close doors at night, especially the doors to lounges and kitchen to prevent fire spreading.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE NOW. Be prepared and do not wait until it happens.