

Fire safety in your home

High-rise living

If you need assistance understanding the information in this document, please contact us on **0300 365 1111**.



01

Introduction

High-rise blocks have no greater risk of fire than other types of homes. However you should always consider your fire safety, and the impact it may have on other residents, should anything happen.

We know nothing is more important than keeping you and your family safe which is why you need to know what to do in the event of a fire no matter where you happen to be in the building.

02

Designed with safety in mind

One Vision Housing high-rise flats are built to delay the spread of fire. Your building has been designed with fire safety in mind.

Lift access

Never use the lift when evacuating the building. Fires can cause power failures which might leave you trapped inside.

Emergency access

Never block emergency access to your building. The Fire and Rescue Service need to get as close as possible to the building.

Firefighting safety systems

- Fire detection systems are installed throughout the communal areas of the building. When activated, a signal is sent to a remote monitoring station who will call the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Sprinkler systems are installed in each flat and throughout the communal areas of your building.
- Smoke clearance devices are installed in your building to help in the event of a fire to remove any smoke from the stairwell escape routes.
- Dry or wet riser pipes (usually painted red) run internally through your building. The pipes provide water to higher floors in order to tackle fires.
- If you suspect any of these systems are damaged or not working please contact OVH immediately.



03

Smoke Alarms

As your landlord we have a legal duty to ensure at least one smoke detector is equipped on each storey of your home where there is a room used as living accommodation.

Heat/smoke detectors

To reduce your chances of being injured or even killed in a fire at home, you should ensure that you have at least one working smoke detector in your property. If you do not have a smoke detector, you should contact us. You can also contact Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service on **0800 731 5958** to arrange a home fire safety check.

You should test your heat/smoke detector weekly to make sure it is working properly, if it does not work, you may need to replace the battery.

Standard battery operated detectors will need batteries replacing every year. If your detector is faulty, you should contact us, so we can repair or replace it. If your heat/smoke detector starts to bleep on a regular basis, you need to replace the battery immediately.

Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your heat/smoke detector. If fitting your own detector, install a heat detector in your kitchen and smoke detectors elsewhere in your property. Avoid bathrooms where steam can set them off by accident.

The ideal position is on the ceiling, in the middle of the room, and on the landing or hallway.

Heat/smoke detectors designed specifically for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available, contact the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service on **0800 731 5958** to discuss your options.



04

Fire safety in your home

Smoking

Smoking is the most common cause of fatal fires, which is why the safest option is to not smoke. But if you do, please make sure you:

- Once finished safely extinguish all cigarettes.
- Never discard cigarette butts out of your windows or from a balcony. For safe disposal, wet the stub and place in your bin.
- Do not smoke in bed or anywhere you may fall asleep.
- Never leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Use proper ashtrays and never throw hot ash into the bin.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

If you need any help or advice quitting please contact Smokefree National Helpline on **0300 123 1044**.

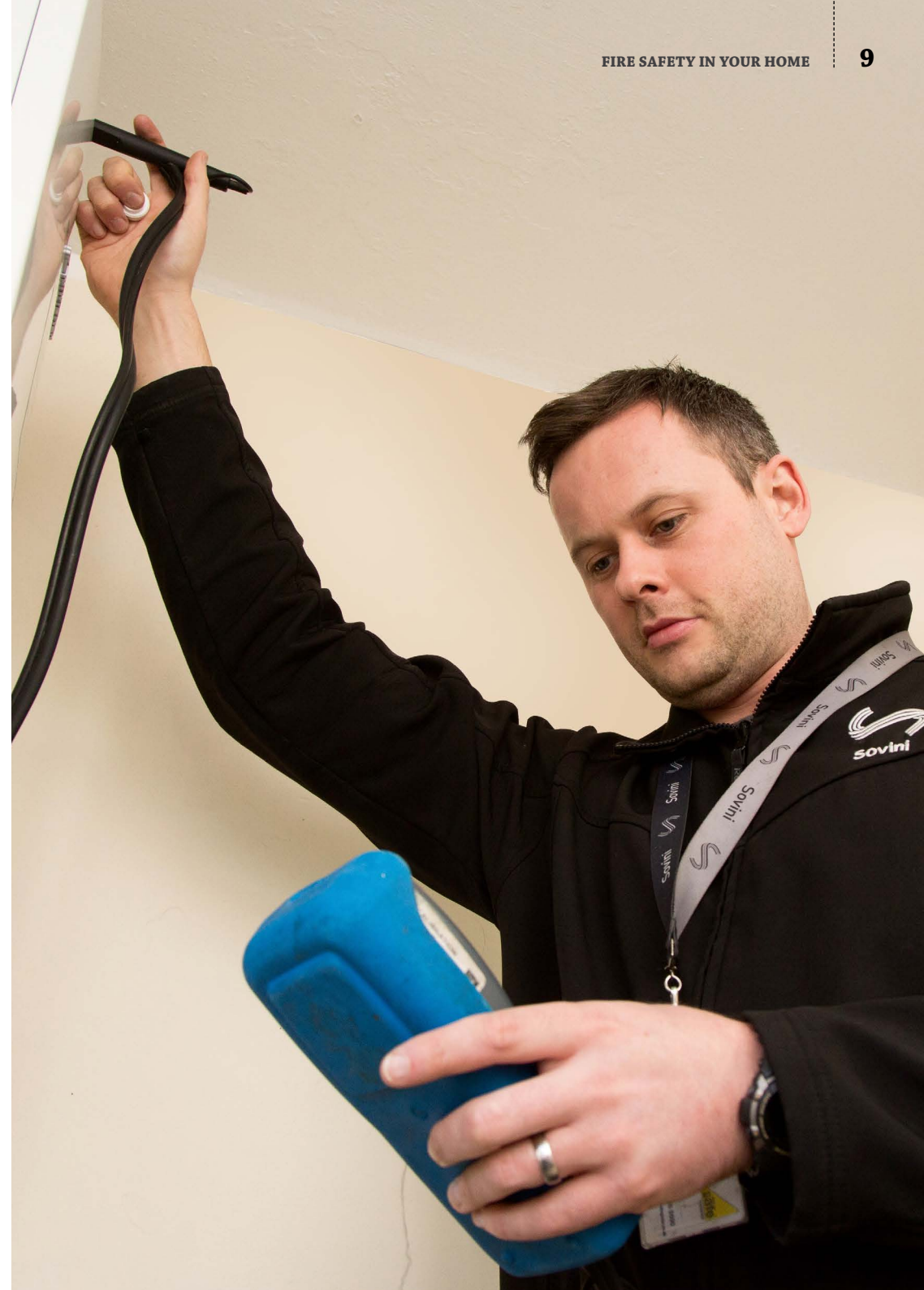
If you are now vaping as an alternative, remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Always use the correct charger and never use an e-cigarette if it is damaged in any way.

Cooking

- Never leave pans unattended when cooking.
- Don't cook if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or taking medication that might make you drowsy.

If your pan catches fire:

- Don't tackle the fire yourself or try to move the pan.
- Never throw water into it as this can create a fireball.
- Leave the room and close the door. Shout to warn others to get out, stay out and call 999.
- If safe to do so, turn off the heat.



Electrics

- Never overload electrical sockets or leave items on charge.
- Keep electrical appliances clean and in good working order.
- Only leave essential appliances switched on, such as the fridge or freezer. Turn all other electrical items off when they are not in use.

Lithium batteries, e-bikes and e-scooters

Lithium-ion batteries are used in e-bikes, e-scooters, mobility devices and many other rechargeable products. If a battery is damaged, faulty or charged incorrectly, it can cause a rapidly developing fire and produce toxic smoke.

To keep you, your family and neighbours safe:

Always use the charger supplied or approved by the manufacturer and follow the manufacturer's charging instructions.

Never leave batteries charging unattended, while you are out or while you are asleep. Unplug the charger when charging is complete.

Never charge or store e-bikes, e-scooters or their batteries on an escape route or in communal areas, including hallways, corridors, stairwells and landings.

When charging a removable battery, place it on a hard, flat surface away from combustible materials and do not cover the battery or charger.

Do not use or charge a damaged battery. Stop using it if it becomes unusually hot, swollen, leaks, makes hissing or cracking noises, gives off an unusual smell, smokes or does not charge normally.

Buy e-bikes, batteries and chargers from reputable retailers and use compatible, manufacturer-approved components. Take particular care with second-hand, refurbished or converted e-bikes.

Protect batteries from damage and extreme temperatures and follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and storage.

If a battery starts smoking or catches fire:

Get out, stay out and call **999**. Do not attempt to tackle the fire yourself.

Candles

- Candles, tea lights and incense should only be placed in stable, heat resistant holders.
- Keep them away from materials that may catch fire such as curtains, furniture, papers and clothes.



Appliances

Always check the plugs and leads of any appliances and if they look frayed, scorched or damaged then do not use them.

Keep the lint tray and drum of your tumble dryer clear of any build up of fluff and debris as this can ignite if left unattended.

It's also important that you review the safety guidance for the make and model of your appliances as some are known to contain defects which can lead to fires.

Gas cannisters

To reduce the risks of fire you should not use, permit to be used and/or store compressed gas within your home or any communal areas. If you are required to use and/or store compressed gas for medical reasons (e.g. oxygen), you must contact OVH immediately.

05

Communal areas

Everyone is responsible for fire safety in their own home and within the building, including any communal areas (i.e. communal hallways, bin rooms, shared stairways etc.).

Please follow these tips to keep your communal areas fire safe.

**Smoking**

Do not smoke in any communal area.

As per the Smoke Free Regulations 2006 it is illegal to smoke in any public internal communal areas. Smoking will activate the communal fire detection systems.

If we confirm you or a visitor to your home is responsible for a false fire alarm we will recharge you for the cost of our engineers and the Fire Service to attend.

**Rubbish**

Do not leave rubbish, bikes, mobility scooters, prams, items of furniture, carpets or any other items in any communal areas.

All of these items are a fire risk and could prevent easy passage along the escape routes should you and others need to evacuate the block.

**Fire doors**

Keep fire doors closed and do not open them. They are there to stop fires from spreading. OVH may need to periodically inspect your own flat entrance door to ensure it is operating and fitting correctly.

Please report to us straight away if you notice:

- A fire door is damaged or not fitting fully into its frame.

- Fire doors being wedged open.
- A fire door is not closing correctly.

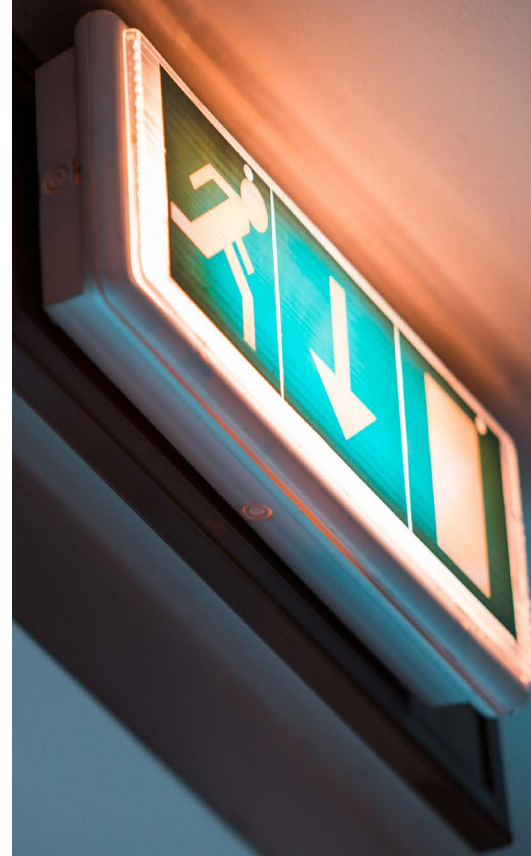
IMPORTANT: You must never disconnect the self closing device to any fire doors in the building.

**Emergency lighting**

If you notice any damage to light fittings throughout the building or if they are not working properly, please contact us immediately.

**Bin rooms**

Please do not place any combustible items in the bin room. If you need to dispose of any large items (i.e. mattresses, furniture etc.) please call Sefton Council on 0345 140 0845 to arrange removal of your unwanted bulky items.



06

Escape route - have a plan!

Step 1

In the event of a fire in your flat, it's always best to be prepared. Make sure you identify possible escape routes from every room and have an arranged meeting place outside so you're sure everyone in your flat has escaped.

Step 2

Stay calm and gather all the members of your family and make your way out together through the nearest exit. If a door feels hot do not open it.

If you are trapped in a room by smoke or fire, you need to stop smoke getting into the room. Close the door and block any gaps around the door with spare clothing, towels or blankets.

If you can access a window in the room open it and shout to let others know you are trapped and what your flat number is.

Remain as calm as you can and await the emergency services to attend.



Step 3

Once onto the communal landing please use the escape stairwell to make your way to the ground floor. Never try to use the lifts.

Step 4

When outside call 999 for the Fire and Rescue Service so they are aware of the fire. Stay out of the building until the Fire Service tells you it's safe.



Smoke can be deadly, but if you have to get through it, crawl under it.

07

Make a bedtime checklist

- ✓ Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading.
- ✓ Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on (i.e. your fridge).
- ✓ Don't leave washing machines or dryers on overnight.
- ✓ Check your cooker is turned off.
- ✓ Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- ✓ Make sure exit routes from your flat are kept clear.
- ✓ During the holidays make sure you turn off any mains powered fairy lights.

Knowing how to react in a fire will always give you and your family the best opportunity of remaining safe, so please ensure everyone in your home is familiar with the content of this guide and they adopt the helpful tips provided.

Fire Action Notice

In the event of a fire in your flat:

Ensure that everyone evacuates your flat immediately. Close the front door to your flat. Make your way out of the building, using the common escape route. Once you are outside the building, call the fire and rescue service by dialling 999.

In the event of a fire elsewhere in the building:

The building is designed to contain a fire and allow you to remain in your flat in relative safety if the fire is in another flat or elsewhere in the building.

If your flat is not affected by fire, you will be safe to remain in your flat.

Leave your flat if it becomes affected by fire and smoke or you are directed to leave by the Fire and Rescue Service.

If you are in a common area:

Leave the building immediately - do not go back to your flat.

Do not use the lifts

Once you are outside the building, call the Fire and Rescue Service by dialling 999.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Where a 'stay safe' policy is in place, we would emphasise that if you are in any doubt that it is safe to remain in your flat and provided it is safe to use the common escape routes, then you should leave the building as quickly as possible.

Calling the Fire and Rescue Service:

Dial 999. When the operator answers, give your telephone number and ask for FIRE.

When the Fire and Rescue Service answers, give them your address and the location of the fire.

Do not end the call until the Fire and Rescue Service have confirmed the address.

Notes

Get in touch



ovh.org.uk



0300 365 1111*



enquiries@ovh.org.uk



facebook.com/ovhousing



@onevisionhousing



One Vision Housing

**8am - 6pm, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays.*

Emergency repairs, 24 hours, 7 days a week



The information inside this leaflet was correct at time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, please visit ovh.org.uk.



The
Sovini
Group

One Vision Housing is part of The Sovini Group

If you need assistance understanding the information in this document, please contact us on **0300 365 1111**.

Chinese

如果您需要幫助了解本文檔中的信息，請致電 **0300 365 1111** 與我們聯繫。

Lithuanian

Jei norite, kad Jums kas nors padėtų suprasti šiame dokumente pateiktą informaciją, prašome su mumis susisiekti tel **0300 365 1111**.

Polish

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy, by zrozumieć informacje zawarte w tym dokumencie, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem **0300 365 1111**.

Portuguese

Caso necessite de assistência para compreender a informação constante neste documento, deverá contactar-nos através do **0300 365 1111**.

Russian

Если вам требуется разъяснение информации, содержащейся в данном документе, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с нами по телефону **0300 365 1111**.

Turkish

Bu belgede verilen bilgileri anlama konusunda desteğe ihtiyacınız olursa lütfen bize ulaşın **0300 365 1111**.