

What to do in case of a fire

When it comes to fire, you are primarily responsible for your own safety and that of your family.

Act FIRST :

Kitchen appliances and smokers' items cause almost all domestic fires.

- ☺ Install a good fire extinguisher near the stove, and learn how to use it.
- ☺ **NEVER** leave food to cook on the stove if you are not there to supervise it. This applies in particular to fried food.
- ☺ Keep smokers' items out of the reach of children, and **NEVER** smoke in bed.
- ☺ Install a smoke detector on every floor and in every closed room. Check the detectors once a month, change the batteries once a year (or more often if necessary) and replace the detectors once every five years.
- ☺ Store flammable liquids such as paint, solvents and similar materials away from sources of heat, and remember that fuel and propane tanks must be stored outside.
- ☺ Establish an evacuation plan, make sure all members of your family know about it, and practice the evacuation procedure.
- ☺ Organize a meeting point (for example, at a neighbour's house) where everyone will go if the house has to be evacuated.
- ☺ Draw up an inventory of your property, with photos or videos, and keep it outside the house in a safe place. This will help if ever you need to make an insurance claim.

If a fire BREAKS OUT...

- ☞ If the fire is in its early stages when you detect it and you have an extinguisher at hand, discharge the extinguisher, aiming at the base of the flames. However, this will be of no use if the fire has had time to take hold.
- ☞ Isolate the fire by closing off the room in which it broke out.
- ☞ Before entering a room, touch the top of the door to see if there is fire on the other side.
- ☞ Calmly but quickly, usher all family members out of the house.
- ☞ If the fire occurs during the night, wrap yourself in blankets rather than looking for your clothes.
- ☞ Make your way to your prearranged meeting point and call the fire department.

Once the FIRE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED :

- ☞ Do not enter a house that has been damaged by fire. The structure may have been weakened, and you will be risking serious injury.
- 📍 Tell the municipal authorities where you are, so that they can contact you and also inform you of any short-term disaster assistance measures that may be available. Notify your insurance company and keep the receipts from all purchases made and expenditures incurred to obtain temporary accommodation.