

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON FIRE SAFETY AND SECURITY IN YOUR HOME

förbo

Viktig information om brandskyddet och säkerheten i din bostad

Språk: Engelska



# FIRE HAZARDS IN THE HOME

- Each year, in Sweden, there are several thousand house fires of such seriousness that the emergency services are called out. As a result of these, 100 people lose their lives and damage amounting to SEK 1.1 billion is caused.

- There are about the same number of small fires and incidents. Common causes of fire in our homes are electrical faults and overheating of different types. Fires in TV's, dishwashers and tumble dryers also occur. Never leave your home with a domestic appliance or machine in operation.



- Candles left burning cause many unnecessary fires.
- Four out of five fires are caused by the human factor.

- Fires in saucepans or frying-pans on the oven, like other fires, generate a toxic smoke. The fire can easily spread to a greased-over extractor fan outlet and further to the entire apartment or building. Smoking causes many serious fires with personal injuries and loss of life as a consequence.



# PREVENT FIRE

- A smoke detector (automatic fire alarm) is the single most important fire protection device in your home. A smoke detector discovers very rapidly any build-up of smoke and starts to emit loud bleeps. Check regularly the battery of the smoke detector. Bear in mind that the functions of a smoke detector start to deteriorate after ten years. When that time arrives replace the smoke detector.

- It is the responsibility of the landlord to ensure that there is a smoke detector in the dwelling. The occupant of the property is responsible for ensuring that the smoke detector functions properly.

- Do not forget the smoke detector in your summer cottage or caravan. There are also special smoke detectors that you can pack in your luggage and take on holiday with you.

- Attend to flickering fluorescent lamps (strip lighting) without delay. Every year several hundred fires are actually caused by defective strip lighting.

- In the majority of the 100 or so fatal fires that occur in homes every year a functioning smoke detector is absent.

## OTHER GOOD ADVICE FOR AVOIDING FIRES

- Be careful with candles. Set up a reminder note "don't forget the candles" on the inside of the front door.
- Get into the habit of switching off the TV with the off-button on the apparatus. Avoid having the TV placed on a bookshelf or other location where dust can accumulate and heat is built up.
- Remove the plug from the socket after using the coffee machine and toaster.
- Check that the filter and oven extractor fan are free from grease.

# LEARN TO ACT IN EVENT OF FIRE

All fires are small to start with. It is therefore important to know how to act immediately if a fire should break out. The basic rule is **RESCUE – ALERT – CALL THE EMERGENCY SERVICES on 112 – EXTINGUISH.**

- Fire in the pan. Move the sauce-pan from the plate. Smother the fire with a lid. Never use water if a fire breaks out in margarine, oil or other fats.



- Fire in the TV. It frequently starts with a build-up of smoke from the TV. First remove the plug from the socket, then pour water over it and attempt to get the apparatus out in the open (e.g. on the balcony).

- Other fires. If there is a small fire and you have extinguishing equipment then approach the fire from a low position and spray on to the centre of the fire. Crawl under the smoke.
- If you are unable to extinguish by yourself. Close the door to the area where the fire has broken out, call the emergency services and then leave the apartment. NB. Make sure you close the apartment door!

- Learn the concept. **DOWN BELOW THE SMOKE and SHUT IN THE FIRE.**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If there is a fire somewhere else in a building than in your own apartment you should think of the following:

- Never go out into the stairwell if there is smoke on the stairs. The smoke propagates very rapidly and is deadly.
- Remain in your apartment; this is where you are safest.

- The door of your apartment resists fire for at least 30 minutes.
- If you are worried ring 112. If the emergency services are on site then draw attention to yourself via the window or balcony.
- Await the instructions of the emergency services.



## CALLING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

When you call 112 you come to the emergency service centre at SOS Alarm. Reply to the SOS operator's questions, in that way you receive the fastest and best assistance. While one operator is asking you questions another is starting to call the nearest fire station.

- Be prepared to take instructions from the SOS operator.



- Meet up and show where assistance is required.
- You can ring SOS 112 again if you have additional information.
- Be prepared for the fact that a fire or an accident may occur at any moment. Think through how you should act if you then need to call SOS 112.

# CHECKLIST FIRE PROTECTION IN YOUR HOME



**FILL IN AND CHECK THE FIRE PROTECTION IN YOUR OWN HOME.**

## Checklist for enhanced safety for you and your neighbours

**Follow this list here and check the fire protection in your home and in the building.**

- The home should be equipped with at least one smoke detector.
- Check the functioning of your smoke detector.
- Check the electrical equipment in the apartment. Is the flex in a twist? Are the sockets loose?
- Rectify flickering strip lighting. Electrical faults are one of the most common causes of fire.
- Do not place candles on the TV.
- The TV shall be free standing. Switch off the TV with the off-button on the apparatus.
- Make sure you keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Remove the plug after using the coffee machine and toaster.
- Do not keep inflammable goods in the cellar or attic.
- Ensure that filters and oven extractor fans are free from grease.
- Make sure that unnecessary waste and newspapers are not piled in the stairwell, cellar or in the attic.
- The rubbish chutes in the stairwell shall always be closed.
- Container in the yard? The safety distance from the building is 4 metres for covered containers and 6 meters for open ones.
- Doors to cellars and attics shall always be locked.
- The home should be equipped with at least one hand-held fire extinguisher (Recommended: 6 kg ABC powder).
- In the first place, contact the landlord if you believe there are shortcomings in the existing fire protection. If you have questions you are always welcome to call the emergency services in your municipality.

## If a fire should break out

Rescue, alert, call out the emergency services and extinguish: these are four important concepts to remember in the event of a fire.

- Rescue people in danger, warn those in the vicinity and call the emergency services on 112.
- Attempt to extinguish the fire if there is an extinguisher or a hose, but do not take unnecessary risks!
- If the room is filled with smoke – crawl under the smoke. At floor-level there is oxygen.
- Close the door to the area where the fire is located.
- Stay in your apartment if a fire breaks out somewhere else in the building. Do not go out in to a stairwell where there is smoke. If you should need help then ring 112.

## Arson

Many fires are deliberately started. Each year in Sweden there are about 10 000 cases of arson. Help us in the fight against arson.

- Be alert to unauthorised individuals.
- Never store bundles of newspapers, cardboard and similar in cellars and stairways.
- Keep doors to cellars and attics locked.
- Ensure that rubbish chutes in the stairways are closed.
- If you have information to offer in connection with a fire then contact the police.