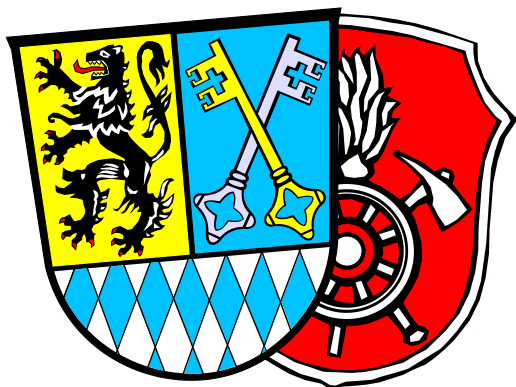


What to do if a fire breaks out?



112

In the event of fire: Immediately call the fire brigade!



If you become aware of a fire, first of all alert the fire brigade by dialling the emergency number **112**. This number is available free of charge! The following steps are to be heeded during an emergency call:

- Mention your name and your emergency location.
- Describe what has happened and mention your call-back number.
- Answer the questions which you are asked.
- Stay calm! The fire brigade will definitely reach you in a few minutes.

In the event of fire: How does fire behave?



Even a small fire generates quite a bit of smoke that is extremely hot. Temperatures up to 600 degrees Celsius can prevail in smoke-filled rooms. The following is important in this connection:

on account of the many plastics, lacquers and solvents which are in our furniture, textiles and everyday objects, the smoke is extremely toxic, and even after a brief period inhalation leads to unconsciousness and death.

Fire can spread rapidly. Therefore please note:

objects placed in the stairway can further the rapid spread of a fire.

In the event of fire: What should I do?



Should there be a fire in or around your residence, after alerting the fire brigade please close all windows and doors, and quickly leave the apartment via the stairway. If an escape via the stairway is no longer possible, immediately close the door, seal the door with moist cloths and wait at an opened window. Or if necessary, wait on the balcony for the fire brigade. Draw attention to yourself. The following is important in this connection:

Stay calm! The fire brigade has much practical experience and will rescue you! The fire brigade is also able to safely rescue disabled or injured people.

The fire brigade often uses so-called "escape hoods" (also called smoke hoods): a fireproof bag with viewing window and respirator which is pulled over your head in the event of fire.

Fire protection: prevention for the event of fire!

Cellar doors and attic doors are always to be closed. You should also always keep house and courtyard doors closed. But you should never lock these doors, since in the event of a fire they should be easy to open so that you can leave the house quicker. If the house rules call for keeping house doors locked due to the danger of burglary, the installation of a "panic lock" is advisable.

Objects of any kind which are placed in hallways can not only further the spread of a fire, but also "obstruct" an escape route in the event of fire. Therefore:

do not store any objects in stairways, hallways and corridors which will be used for escape in the event of fire!



Cause of fire: candle and cigarette

Place candles on a fireproof pad and at a sufficient distance to other objects. The following applies in this connection:

never leave a burning candle unattended!

Cigarettes are also a frequent cause of fire. Fallen ashes frequently smoulder a while and – often hours later – spark a fire. Therefore:

always thoroughly stub out cigarettes!

Severe fire injuries – which often lead to death – are frequently attributable to smoking in bed. Whoever falls asleep with a burning cigarette risks that the bed is soon in flames. Therefore:

do not smoke in bed!



Cause of fire: electrical appliances are a source of danger

Defective appliances or power supply lines can heat up strongly or generate sparks in the event of a short circuit. So fires arise, which initially remain unnoticed, but later can cause major damages. Therefore:

- Use only functioning electrical appliances with intact cables.
- Defects in appliances should only be eliminated by a specialist.
- Use only electrical appliances with VDE [German Association of Electrical Engineers] label.

Fan heaters, water cookers, coffee machines, electric blankets, hair dryers or irons all have one thing in common – through a defect they can overheat and spark a fire! Therefore:

- Never leave switched-on electrical appliances unattended, not even for a "brief moment".
- If flames appear in an appliance, immediately pull the plug!



Cause of fire: the kitchen is a source of danger

Fires can quickly break out when cooking, frying or baking. Even a brief moment of absence can be enough for a fire to start unnoticed. Therefore:

never leave a switched-on stove unattended!

Burning fat is much hotter than 100 degrees Celsius. And so whoever pours water into hot fat risks a "fat explosion". Therefore:

smother burning fat with a pan or pot lid!

If you have an exhaust hood fully saturated with fat, a small spark – e.g. from burning fat in a pan – is enough to set the exhaust hood on fire. Therefore:

regularly change the filter in exhaust hoods!



Cause of fire: children are curious!

Children have a natural curiosity, which is exactly why matches, lighters, candles and flames fascinate children. Therefore:

do not leave your children unattended. Familiarise your children (or grandchildren) with the topic of fire. Demonstrate the dangers of fire, but also show them how to properly deal with fire!



Fire protection: smoke detectors

Nobody notices smoke or even a fire when sleeping. Only the warning tone of a smoke detector ensures that people wake up! Smoke detectors emit a loud warning tone even with a slight smoke-up. This ensures that there is still enough time to extinguish the fire or leave the house! Therefore:

- Smoke detectors save lives!
- Smoke detectors are not expensive. They are easy to install, and soon available in every department store, DIY market or electrical speciality store.
- You can recognise safe products by the VdS ["Trust through Safety"; testing & safety authority] testing seal.

