



Hazard Factsheet: Urban Fires



Auckland
Emergency
Management

Dial 111 immediately if there's a fire.

Household preparedness and safety prevention of home fires

escapemyhouse.co.nz (Fire Emergency NZ)

Households need to continually assess their home environment for fire safety and fire prevention, by regularly checking heat and ignition sources such as indoor fireplaces, electric and gas heaters, electric blankets, clothes dryers, garage and tool shed areas (i.e. for flammable fluids, gases or materials), entertainment and cooking areas (e.g. hot coals from outdoor BBQs) and electrical sources such as batteries, chargers, power-cords and multi-plugs (for wear, unsafe use and overloading).

Make sure you have fire extinguishers in the kitchen and other areas where you may need them (e.g. the laundry, garage and tool sheds) and make sure that you and your household know how to use them.

3 Steps to survive a fire in your whare

Typically, there are just 3 minutes to get out of a house fire before it becomes un-survivable. In the toxic black smoke, instincts can fail, and the house becomes foreign in the blackness.

Having an early warning, planning two ways out and agreeing on a safe meeting place means a household is much more likely to make it out.

A simple, 3-step plan for households should be;

1. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, hallway and living area (and check them regularly).
2. Plan two ways out. In the event of a fire, try to alert others while exiting promptly – yell “Fire, Fire, Fire” – and if you live in close proximity to others, knock on people’s doors if you can.
3. Agree on a safe meeting place. Once safely outside, DO NOT go back inside! If there is no fire crew outside, dial 111 and ask for Fire.



Fire preparedness and prevention for workplaces and apartment

In workplaces and for apartment dwellers, there are universal fire preparedness and prevention measures and requirements of the workplace management/ landlord, building manager, body corporate or safety committee. Some questions you may want to consider include:

- Does your building have designated fire wardens?
- Find and read your fire action notice; make an escape plan, starting with knowing where all the fire exits are for your floor, and which is closest to you.

- Know evacuation procedures for the building, e.g. does the whole building evacuate at once or in stages; where are the assembly areas?
- Will anyone need help to leave?
- Does the building have fire extinguishers or fire hose reels? Has there been training on how to use them?

In the event of a fire

- Exit the building using the stairs, do not use the lifts.
- As you exit, try to alert other people on your floor, while exiting promptly: yell 'FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!' and knock on any doors that remain closed if you can; activate the fire.

