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## Ein Stück Sicherheit.



### What to do in case of fire?

**The right behaviour can save lives.**

For most people, a fire is a very frightening experience. They have never experienced a fire, and most certainly not in their own flat or house. So they do not know how to respond properly in the event of a fire. And they fail to assess the risk for themselves and their family or flatmates.

**It is important to know that it is not the fire that is dangerous, but the toxic smoke produced by the fire.**

Just a few breaths are enough to let you pass out and die of smoke poisoning.

SOURCE: Draft of a technical recommendation of the Joint Committee on Fire Prevention Education and Awareness of the DFV (the German Fire Brigades Association) and the vfdB (Association for the Promotion of German Fire Protection).



### Understand the fire hazard and act properly.

The right response in case of a fire and especially the decision regarding your escape route depends on the house or flat and the location of the fire.

#### As a rule of thumb:

**A**

#### Is there a fire inside your own flat?

01. Leave the flat/house as quickly as possible.
02. Take your keys and mobile phone with you. Close the door behind you.
03. Do not use the lift on your way out.
04. Call 112 when you are safely outside the building, tell the fire department where you are and describe what has happened.

#### Is there a fire in the escape route, i.e. in the staircase or in the hall of the flat leading to the exit?

**B**

01. 01. By no means try to escape through the smoke-filled stairwell or hallway!
02. Step out onto the balcony or go to a window from which you can be noticed. (Take your mobile phone with you!)
03. Close as many doors as possible between you and the fire.
04. Then call 112, tell them where you are and describe your situation. The fire brigade will be there to rescue you in time and bring you to safety

#### Always remember: Keep calm!



You are scared because a fire is not a familiar situation. **It is therefore important to know how to react in the event of a fire and to practise your response.** This will not lessen the danger and risk, but you can at least mitigate the life-threatening situation by acting properly. This way you can make sure that no harm comes to you or your family.



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# What to do in case of fire?

The right behaviour can save lives

[www.feuerwehrlernswelt.de](http://www.feuerwehrlernswelt.de)

## Fire in an apartment building, in one's own flat

SITUATION  
**01**

01. Stay calm, think first, then act quickly!
02. **Is it possible to quickly extinguish the fire with simple means?** (Put a lid on the burning pan, use an extinguishing spray, a container with water, etc.)?  
**Note:** If you have to fill a bucket with water first, it will be too late. Therefore do not use real candles at Christmas and if you do (for example on the Advent wreath), place a flower sprayer filled with water within reach!
03. **Can you close the door to the burning room** without endangering yourself? Then this is the first thing you should do, because this will buy you valuable time.
04. **Are there other persons inside the flat?** If so, are they aware of the fire and able to leave the flat without help? Make sure to assist younger siblings or grandparents who are having trouble walking or do not know what to do.
05. **Is the escape route to the entrance door clear?**  
**If not:** What other escape routes are there? Is there a back door or a terrace at ground level that can be used as an emergency exit? **If the hallway is already full of smoke, do not use it!** There is danger to life! In this case respond according to situation 3: Take refuge in a room far away from the fire. Bring your mobile phone with you and call the fire brigade from there.
06. Make sure to take your **mobile phone** and **flat key**. These should always be ready at hand, even at night.
07. Can you leave the flat through the front door?  
**Then leave immediately!**
08. **Important: When leaving the flat, close the door to the staircase behind you!**
09. If you are safely outside the house, **call the 112 emergency number.**
10. Can you **alert your neighbours?** (for example by using the intercom)
11. Wait outside for the fire brigade. You can provide the officer in charge with valuable information for example if and where there are still people in the building.

## Fire in an apartment building, in someones else's flat

SITUATION  
**02**

01. 01. Stay calm, think about what to do first.
02. If your flat **is not in imminent danger of fire**, call the emergency number 112 and describe the situation to the person at the fire brigade control centre. You will be instructed how to handle the situation.
03. If you can already see fire or smoke inside your flat, you should act quickly.
04. **Are there other persons inside your flat?** If yes, are they aware of the fire and can leave the flat on their own?
05. **Is the staircase free of smoke** and can you leave the flat through your entrance door? Then leave immediately!
06. **If not:** What other escape routes are there? Are there none? Please see situation 3 "The staircase is full of smoke".
07. Make sure to take your **mobile phone** and **flat key**. These should always be ready at hand, even at night.
08. **Important: When leaving the flat, close the door to the staircase behind you!**
09. If you are safely outside the building, **call the fire brigade by dialling 112.**
10. Warn your neighbours e.g. via the intercom.
11. Wait outside the building for the arrival of the fire brigade. You can provide the officer in charge with valuable information - for example if and where there are still people in the building.



## Fire in an apartment building, the staircase is full of smoke

SITUATION  
**03**

01. Stay calm, think first, then act quickly!
02. **Close the flat entrance door immediately.** (Do not lock it).
03. **Call the emergency number 112.** Describe your situation to the person in charge at fire brigade control centre and follow instructions.
04. **Seal the gaps** of the flat entrance door with wet cloths to prevent smoke from entering.
05. Is there a **balcony or a room with a window** far away from the front door?
06. Try to close **as many doors as possible** between the flat entrance door and the room in which you are staying. Take your mobile phone with you.
07. **Signal to the fire brigade when you are at an open window or on the balcony.**
08. Close the window if any smoke or flames appear close by. Tell the fire brigade if you need to move to another room.
09. Wait for the fire brigade to arrive in the flat, at the window or on the balcony.

### EMERGENCY CALL 112:

- » **Where** did it happen?
- » **What** happened?
- » **How many** injured/affected persons?
- » **Who** is reporting?
- » **Wait** for further questions.



## Fire in a detached house

SITUATION  
**04**

01. Stay calm, think first, then act quickly!
02. **Is it possible to quickly extinguish the fire with simple means?** (Put a lid on the burning pan, use an extinguishing spray, a container with water, etc.)?  
**Note:** If you have to fill a bucket with water first, it will be too late. Therefore do not use real candles at Christmas and if you do (for example on the Advent wreath), place a flower sprayer filled with water within reach!
03. **If possible, close the door to the burning room.**
04. **Are there other persons inside the house?** If yes, are they aware of the fire and can leave the house on their own?
05. Make sure to take your **mobile phone** and **house keys**. These should always be ready at hand, even at night.
06. Can you **leave the building through the front door or a patio door or a window at ground level?** Then get out immediately!
07. If you are safely outside, **call the 112 emergency number.**
08. Could neighbours be endangered by the fire or smoke? Then make sure to warn them.

Have you got  
your mobile  
phone and  
house keys?

