

# ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY - SAFE FROM FIRE

Fire is a potentially fatal hazard. Whilst the vast majority of holidays are enjoyable and trouble free, unfortunately deaths from fire have occurred, both at home and overseas. However, when people are away from home there may be additional problems. Surroundings will be unfamiliar and the means of usual communication by language and signs will often be totally alien. Travel organisations are making efforts to encourage hotels to improve standards and safety measures where appropriate, but it must be appreciated that differing standards exist abroad according to the rules and regulations in the various individual countries.

The purpose of this leaflet is to make travellers generally aware of possible risks, and to help achieve a safe and happy holiday. Please remember that each accommodation will vary and that local instructions should be followed.

## POSSIBLE CAUSES OF FIRE

- It has been said that there are only three causes of fire "men, women and children", and that no matter how well the protection and communication is organised in a building the ignition is normally caused by human error.
- Smoking is one of the prime causes of fire and should not be undertaken in bedrooms. Many establishments will have a designated area or areas for smoking or non-smoking, nevertheless, reasonable care must be taken at all times.
- Drinking and the temptation to drink can be more prevalent whilst on holiday and the influence of alcohol can often be directly related to fire incidents due to its dulling of the senses and its inducement to deep sleep.
- All forms of fuel are a potential risk and should not be used by guests unless appropriate/permitted and only then if suitable care is exercised.

## PREVENTION

- It is strongly recommended that all guests familiarise themselves with any emergency exits and/or means of escape from their accommodation and the methods of raising the alarm to other residents and contacting the local emergency services such as fire brigade and ambulance. In addition it is advisable to become acquainted with the procedures adopted by the hotel in such emergencies.
- Guests should also be aware of the risks inherent in the hotel from the 'staff only' areas, eg. kitchens, laundries, ironing rooms, bars etc. A reasonable assessment should be made of the imposition of these risks on possible routes of escape.

## ACTION

- If a fire is discovered the first principle should be to confine it to as small area as possible by closing all doors, windows etc. The alarm should be sounded and evacuation of all occupants clear of the affected area should be ensured as quickly as possible.
- When checking the hotel for possible routes of escape the *ideal* position should be recognised, that is, the ability to turn your back clear of the building. Naturally the ideal situation is not always present.
- An assembly point should be identified well away from the building, as well as possible routes and an access position for the fire brigade, so that all occupants can be gathered and counted following an emergency.
- Lifts must not be used as a means of escape under fire conditions because of possible electrical failure.

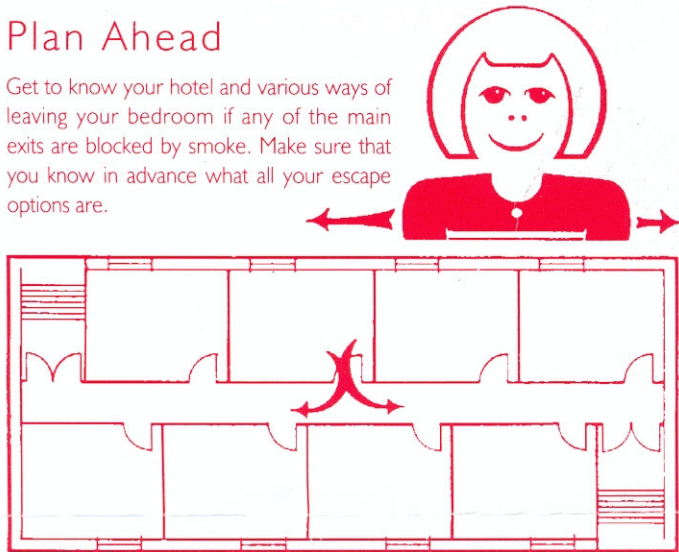
## Check List

- |   |                          |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Have you checked the hotel escape facilities from your room(s), and the route(s) from these to the open air at ground level?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Do you know who should be informed within the hotel management if a fire is seen?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Have you checked that these routes can be kept clear at all times? Especially note if doors are to be locked for security reasons at night that there is a key easily available adjacent to the door.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 Are you and your party familiar with the location of the nearest phone and the telephone number(s) of the appropriate emergency services?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Are all members of your party aware of any rules concerning smoking and the use of any heating appliances, and are they aware of the associated dangers?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 Fire fighting is not a function for guests, however, have you checked what arrangements the hotel management has for limiting the spread of fire, e.g. closure of fire doors and locations of extinguishers, etc? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Do the members of your party know where to assemble in an emergency and any roll call procedures? Also are they aware that they should leave the building as quickly as possible, without using any lifts, and on no account re-enter for personal possessions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 Do you check your room(s) before going out and before going to bed to see that the electrical points are safe and that any TV's or other appliances are unplugged and/or switched off?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Has someone been nominated to clear and check each area or each floor and report back to the roll call assembly point so that all persons can be accounted for?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 Do you ensure that flammable substances eg cleaning fluids and certain hair sprays are not exposed to direct heat?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# POSITIVE ACTION IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

## Plan Ahead

Get to know your hotel and various ways of leaving your bedroom if any of the main exits are blocked by smoke. Make sure that you know in advance what all your escape options are.



Remember hot smoke rises and cleaner air is near the floor. Crawl forward cautiously towards the exit, closing all doors behind you, and leave the building as quickly as possible.



If the corridor is filled with smoke close the bedroom door and place clothing or bed linen in the gaps under and around the door to prevent smoke entering. Block any openings which are allowing smoke into the room.

## Get to the window and attract attention

Should the room start to fill with smoke, lean out of the window, unless you are stopped by flames and smoke coming from a room nearby or below. If prevented from leaning out, lie on the floor until you hear the Fire Brigade or rescue attempts.

You may have to escape before rescue is possible. Make an escape rope by knotting together sheets or similar material. Tie to a substantial piece of furniture, such as a bed. Ensure that it will not move when your weight is applied to the rope and lower yourself to the ground.



You may not be able to make a rope, and conditions may force you to leave. Bedding and cushions etc. dropped from the window will break your fall. Go through the window feet first: reduce the height of the fall by lowering yourself to the full extent of your arms and drop.

## Action at night

Close bedroom and Fire Doors. Where smoking is allowed, check that all cigarettes are safely extinguished, preferably in metal or covered containers.



## Action on hearing a fire alarm

Carry out the instructions given to you for evacuating yourself and your party from the building. Proceed to your assembly point for a roll call as quickly as possible. Do not use lifts.



## Clothes on fire- 'Drop and Roll'

If your clothing catches fire roll on the floor to put out the flames. A person with clothing alight should be laid on the floor and rolled in rugs, blankets or a thick coat. Get immediate medical help.



## Smoke kills

Close all doors to stop any smoke advancing, and use the safest route to reach your assembly point.



## Do not re-enter

Do not go back into the building. Many people have died by returning.

