

THE POWER OF FIVE

5 FIRE AND SMOKE SAFETY FACTS

263 There were **263 fire-related fatalities in England** between April 2016 - March 2017¹, not including the 73 people who died in the Grenfell Tower Incident.

Over one third of fire-related fatalities from April 2016 to March 2017 (where the cause of death was known) was **'overcome by gas or smoke'**.² This is the most common cause of death in fire.

1/3



Smoke spreads much quicker than fire and rises so if there's a fire and smoke surrounding you, **keep low where the air is clearer.**

48% of all fatalities from fires in England were 65 years old and over³. This makes the **elderly 6 times more likely to die in a fire** than under 25s.

48%



You are **six times more likely** to die in a fire if you live in any house in multiple occupation, compared with a single-family house. The risk increases to **sixteen times more** at risk of fatal injury if you live in an HMO which is 3 or more storeys high⁴.

5 SHOCKING FACTS FROM 2018 RESEARCH

1/4 Since the Grenfell tragedy, **only 1/4 of tenants** have been reassured or had discussions about fire safety in their buildings from their landlords.

3/4 of flat tenants would ignore the guidance to "stay put" if there was a fire in their building.

3/4



Two in five (39%) say it's because they do not have confidence in their building's ability to stop the spread of smoke and fire.

Over 1/4 do not understand why their "stay put" fire safety guidance is in place.



50% don't know if their building has a 'stay put' plan.

5 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT FIRE DOORS



Fire doors help compartmentalise a fire – because they are made from fire-resistant materials they slow the spread of fire and smoke to enable occupants to get out.

Fire doors are **constructed from materials designed to resist fire for a certain amount of time**, so it is usually not possible to "convert" a normal door into a fire door.



The most common types are wooden fire doors with **either 30 or 60-minute fire resistance**, though some specialist doors are capable of resisting fire for four hours.

Fire doors usually have signs in the form of a **blue circle containing white text**, most commonly stating **"fire door keep shut."** These signs are mandatory and identify fire doors within a building.

Fire door keep shut



Intumescent materials are designed to swell and enlarge when exposed to heat, thereby sealing any gaps in and around a fire door, blocking the path of the fire. Intumescent fire seals are required around the edges of the door – though can be applied to the frame instead.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

72% 2017 **71%** 2018

Trust their landlord to understand and implement all necessary fire safety measures in their building.

Up 32%
40% 2017 **72%** 2018

Of tenants have not seen any fire doors propped open.

78% 2017 **78%** 2018

Of tenants are somewhat or fully prepared of what to do in the event of a fire in their building.

Down 12%
50% 2017 **38%** 2018

Would leave their flat in the event of a fire and try to escape down the stairs.

Down 4%
20% 2017 **16%** 2018

Have seen damaged fire doors in their building.

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/636456/fire-and-rescue-incident-1617-hosb1317-infographic.pdf
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables#history>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables#history>
4. http://www.bedford.gov.uk/housing/houses_in_multiple_occupation/hmo_fire_safety.aspx