



HELSINKI CITY RESCUE DEPARTMENT

*Fire safety information*

# for apartment block residents



**Take care of fire safety!**



# Instructions for residents

## Smoke alarm

**At least** one smoke alarm must be installed on all floors of the dwelling as well as in all connected basements and attics. All floors must contain at least one smoke alarm per each 60 m<sup>2</sup> or part thereof.

Install the smoke alarm in a location where it will detect the smoke from a fire as early on as possible.

Maintain your smoke alarm in proper working order. The working order of the smoke alarm must be ensured by testing it regularly.

As of 1 February 2009, smoke alarms that are connected to the electrical net-



work must be installed in new housing units. The power supply of the device is ensured with a back up battery or accumulator.

## Fireplaces, smoke flues and chimney sweeping

**A sweep** once a year:

- solid-fuel fireplaces and light oil fireplaces as well as their flues.

If a fireplace and flue have been unused for over three years or their purpose of use is changed, they must be swept before use.



**Contact information of chimney sweeps (in Finnish):** [www.hel.fi/nuohous](http://www.hel.fi/nuohous)

## Storage of flammable substances

**The maximum** permissible amount of flammable liquids that can be kept in residential dwellings is 25 litres (highly flammable, flammable; e.g. petrol). For liquefied petroleum gas, the maximum amount is 25 kg. A maximum of 50 litres of flammable liquids with a flashpoint of over 55 degrees Celsius (e.g. diesel) can be kept in a residential dwelling.



No flammable liquids or liquefied petroleum gas may be stored in the basement or attic.



# Instructions for the responsible persons in the housing company

## Emergency access road

**An emergency** access road is a road that is intended for emergency vehicles. It is mandatory for all new buildings over 3 storeys or over 10 metres tall.

Furthermore, ambulances must be able to drive up to the stairway of all buildings.

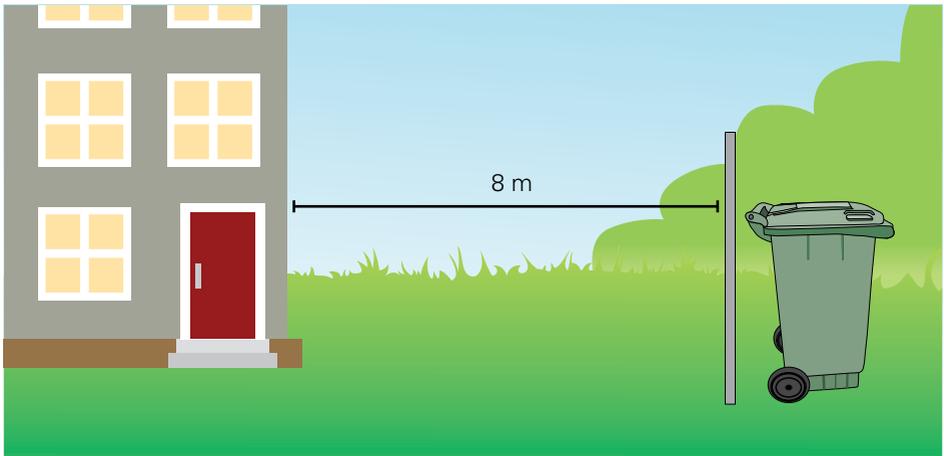
Emergency access roads must be kept in good condition and free from obstructions, in which they must be clearly and appropriately indicated.



## Preventing arson

**Waste containers** and collection points should generally be located at least eight metres from the buildings. If containers or collection points are located less than eight metres from the main building, they must be protected structurally.

No flammable material, or other material or items, may be kept in the immediate vicinity of a building in such a way that may cause a fire hazard, help a fire to spread or obstruct efforts to extinguish a fire.



## General cleanliness and order

**No items** should be stored in the stairway. Prams and other such equipment and items can hinder evacuation and rescue measures.

In addition, the hallways of lofts and basements are not meant for storing household items. Any unnecessary items in the hallways give arsonists a possibility to exercise vandalism.



## Responsibilities

### It is the housing company's responsibility to ensure that

- 1** | A rescue plan has been created and presented to the residents and it is updated when necessary
- 2** | Civil defence personnel have been appointed and trained to perform their tasks
- 3** | The required materials for all the civil defence personnel have been acquired
- 4** | The civil defence shelter and civil defence materials are kept in order, and the equipment in the shelter is tested and maintained appropriately
- 5** | Address numbers are in order (building number and stairways, signpost for the site)
- 6** | The information boards in the stairways contain the contact information of the property manager and maintainer as well as safety instructions for residents
- 7** | Emergency access roads are kept in good condition and free of obstructions
- 8** | Active measures to prevent arson are in place
- 9** | General cleanliness and order is maintained

## General fire safety

- 1** | **Make sure** that you have a functioning smoke alarm at home
- 2** | **Do not** leave candles or fireplace burning unattended
- 3** | **Do not** leave matches or other tools for lighting a fire where children can reach them
- 4** | **Do not** dry your clothes in the sauna.
- 5** | **Do not** keep items on the stove
- 6** | **Ensure** that your electrical appliances and equipment are in proper working order and clean them regularly. Do not leave them powered on while unattended.
- 7** | **Obtain** a fire blanket (min. size 120x180cm) and/or portable fire extinguisher for your home.



*Fire extinguisher*

*Fire blanket*



## What to do in emergencies

### Fire

**RESCUE** those who are in immediate danger,  
**EXTINGUISH** the fire if it is possible to do so safely, **VACATE** the  
burning space and **CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS**.

**WARN OTHERS**

**DIAL 112**

**GUIDE** the fire brigade to the fire

**DO NOT EXIT THROUGH A SMOKY STAIRWAY!**

### How to make an emergency call

**Make the emergency call yourself, if you can.**

**Wait for an operator to answer your call.**

**Describe to the operator what has happened.**

**Provide the exact address and city district.**

**Listen to and answer the questions that you are asked.**

**Follow the emergency operator's instructions.**

**Do not end the call before you are given permission to do so.**

**Provide instructions, or a guide, to your location.**

Call again if the situation changes.

**NOTE!** Emergency calls are always free of charge,  
and you do not need to dial in an area code.

Additionally, you do not need a sim card  
or pin code when calling from a mobile phone.



**More information: [www.hel.fi/pel](http://www.hel.fi/pel), On-duty Fire Inspector, tel. +358 9 310 31203,  
weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon – 15:30 p.m.**

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