

Safe & Sound T&R Direct Article

Safe & Sound

Gas Leak:

Firstly, turn off the gas at the control valve (typically on the pipe coming out of your gas meter, often on the left-hand side), then open all the doors and windows. Put out any naked flames, don't light cigarettes or matches and don't turn on electrical switches. Then, call Transco, the 24-hour free-phone national gas emergency service, on 0800 688 588. For more info visit www.nationalgrid.com

Fire:

Always fit a British Standard's approved smoke alarm (marked with the kitemark) and check the batteries every week. Smoke alarms may be purchased for as little £5 and can be found in most hardware and general stores. The best place to fit them is at the top or bottom of the stairs, or in a flat in the hallway between the living and sleeping areas. In both cases they should be at least 30cm from the nearest light fitting.

Make sure your home complies with fire safety regulations regarding fire doors and escape routes. Contact your local authority's Building Control department if you're not sure.

In the event of fire:

- shut the door of the room where it is burning, then leave the building
- close all doors behind you to starve the fire of oxygen
- ring 999 once you have escaped.

If you find yourself trapped:

- block gaps under doors to help stop smoke spreading
- stay close to the floor to avoid smoke.

For more information go to www.fireservice.co.uk

Be Prepared:

- Lag those pipes
- Have your boiler checked annually
- Locate your stop valve
- Keep emergency numbers listed by your phone
- Buy essential tools, such as a wrench and torch
- Ensure your family knows how to behave in an emergency
- Fit a carbon-monoxide alarm
- Have an evacuation plan in case of fire.