

# Survival Guide Fact Sheet 4



## Fire Safety & Alarms

In the event of a fire in your home you are at least four times more likely to die if there is no working smoke alarm.

Private sector landlords are required to have at least one smoke alarm installed on every floor of their properties and a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance (e.g. a coal fire, wood-burning stove).

Info about fire safety in shared or rented accommodation and how to make your home safe can be found at:

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The landlord must make sure the alarms are in working order at the start of each new tenancy and also:

- follow safety regulations
- check you have access to escape routes at all times
- make sure the furniture and furnishings they supply are fire safe
- provide fire alarms and extinguishers if the property is in multiple occupation such as shared houses, student houses etc.

### Who is responsible for checking alarms and ensuring they work?

The landlord should test the alarms on the first day of the tenancy. After that, you should take responsibility for your own safety and test all alarms regularly (monthly) to make sure they are in working order. If you find your alarm(s) are not in working order during the tenancy, you are advised to arrange the replacement of the batteries or the alarm itself with your landlord.

### Carbon monoxide alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms are required in rooms containing a solid fuel burning appliance (i.e. those with an open fire, log-burning stove, etc.). However, as gas appliances can emit carbon monoxide, we would expect and encourage landlords to ensure that working carbon monoxide alarms are installed in rooms with these. Your local fire & rescue service may be able to visit your home and check it for any risks. Contact your local fire station to find out more (not 999).

**“Smoke Alarms – Working alarms save lives”**

