

Fire Safety Advice

for residents in mobile homes



St Albans
City & District Council

Housing Services

As you live on a mobile home site there are things you should know about how to prevent fires and what to do if a fire breaks out. Please read this leaflet and keep it available for information.

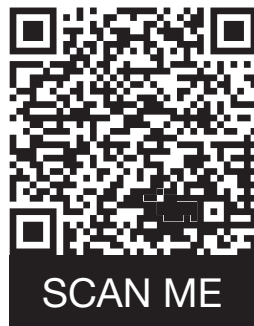
Remember, because the mobile homes are very close together, you, your family and your neighbours' safety depends on everyone co-operating.

Familiarise yourself with your site, and the location of fire points and of the fire assembly point.

In case of an emergency, call the fire service immediately by telephoning 999.

Do not assume that someone else has reported it.

The local fire service offers 'Safe and Well' visits for individual residents. If you are interested in booking a visit, you can do so via their website (scan the QR code below), or call St Albans Fire Station and request a 'Safe and Well' visit.



If a fire breaks out in your home



Do

- ✓ Alert anyone else in your home and your neighbours if at all possible.
- ✓ If there is smoke, keep everyone low where the air is clearer.
- ✓ Leave your home at once closing all doors and windows behind you where it is safe to do so.
- ✓ Sound the bell at the nearest fire point if safe to do so.
- ✓ Call the fire service on **999** as soon as it is safe to do so - do not assume that someone else has.
- ✓ Make your way safely to the fire assembly point at the entrance to the site.
- ✓ When the fire service arrives confirm whether there is anyone still in the mobile home and if they need to be aware of any hazardous substances.



Don't

- ✗ Do not tackle the fire yourself unless it is safe to do so. Fire can spread quickly.
- ✗ Do not let anyone stop to collect personal belongings. Personal safety is paramount and delays cost lives.
- ✗ Do not let anyone go back into the mobile home under any circumstances unless and until the fire service confirms it is safe to do so.



Things you can do to keep yourself safe and prevent fires

- Have a plan and review it regularly. Talk to everyone living in your home about what to do if a fire breaks out.
- Ensure electrical wiring is in good order. Ideally it should be tested regularly by a qualified electrician. The recommendation is for buildings to be checked at least every five years.
- It is advisable to have a smoke alarm fitted in your home. You should test your alarm each week to ensure that it is working properly. Never remove the batteries unless you are replacing them. Vacuuming the alarm every six months will help to ensure that dust does not affect its ability to work if a fire occurs. Early warning of a fire saves lives. A smoke alarm will give you vital time to escape.
- Keep window and door lock keys where everyone in your home can find them.
- Do not block your fire escape routes. Keep hallways and exits clear of clutter.
- Do not smoke in bed. This is a major cause of fires in the home. Always finish your cigarette before bed and ensure that it is properly put out.
- When using the cooker, never leave it unattended. You may wish to consider getting a fire blanket for use in the kitchen.
- Never leave young children alone. Keep matches or lighters out of reach and do not let children near cooking or heating appliances when in use.
- If you have a wood burning stove, this must be used with care following the manufacturer's instructions and safety advice.

- Never leave candles, tea-lights or incense sticks unattended. They are naked flames and heat sources and you must make sure you put them out completely.

- Sit at least three feet away from heaters. Never put a heater near clothes or furniture.

- Avoid the use of multi-adaptors where possible but if they are used never overload electrical circuits.

- Never run electrical appliances from light sockets.

- Before going to bed, switch off all electrical appliances, except those that are designed to be left on, such as fridges. Carefully remove plugs from electric sockets. Close internal doors. Check there is nothing blocking the hallway and front door. Keep a torch handy. If a fire happens at night and the electrics fail, you need to ensure your escape is not impeded.

- When using a BBQ or chiminea, you must ensure it is positioned carefully. Sparks or embers can cause a fire. If using a disposable BBQ, charcoal, or other burning material you must ensure that it is fully extinguished and cold before disposing of it safely.

- If you have gas cannisters, these should be placed on a flat surface and be securely chained in position.



You must **not** store flammable items under your mobile home, or in sheds. This includes spare or empty gas canisters, petrol cans and other flammable materials or liquids. Failure to observe this is a high Health and Safety risk.

Please ensure that garden vegetation is kept under control at all times to help prevent the spread of fire.

Do not place items of furniture or rubbish outside your home. Removal of large items can be arranged through the Council's bulky waste service. Contact the call centre on **01727 809019**.

Labels on harmful products should be read carefully. You have a responsibility to ensure they are stored and used correctly.

This is for your personal safety and for that of your neighbours. Please keep your shed locked when not in use.



Fire Checks



A Council contractor checks fire points and extinguishers every six months. Council staff check fire points once a month and a log of these checks is held on our systems at the Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Albans. Fire risk assessments are reviewed annually. Please note that the extinguishers provided are for the use of fire involving wood, paper and textiles. They are not safe for live electrical equipment flammable liquids or flammable metal fires.

Contact

Remember your actions can affect the safety of others in your home and on your site. Please follow the advice and instructions in this leaflet.

We are committed to providing equal access to information. If you would like this information in another format please contact the Housing Options Team on **01727 819355**.

Housing Services

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