

Fire Safety Rules In Daily Activities

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A fire in an apartment is a terrible disaster. According to statistics, about 70% of fires in the country occur in housing, while the number of deaths in fires in residential buildings is up to 90% of the total number of deaths in fires.

A house or apartment is a place where a person should feel safe. What each of us should know and do to feel safe in our own home.

Nowadays, buildings for human habitation are built mainly from reinforced concrete, brick and metal. Accordingly, if you live in a reinforced concrete or brick house, you are much more protected from fire, unlike people living in wooden houses. In the event of a fire in an apartment adjacent to the site, your apartment may not be damaged. A fire above and below the floor is much more dangerous; in this case, a fire through open window openings, balconies and in places where vertical communications pass can affect your apartment.

Fires in buildings with wooden floors pose a great danger, so the fire department has special control over such buildings. Choose buildings made of non-combustible materials for living.

The newer the residential building, the more protected it is from fire. "How is this?" - you ask. It's simple, over time, fire safety requirements for residential buildings become more stringent. The design and construction of residential buildings is carried out taking into account the fires that have occurred. Regulatory documents are constantly changing and supplemented to ensure the safety of people during fires.

It should also be noted that technical fire protection systems for buildings lose their reliability over time. According to statistics: in 25% of all cases of fires that occurred in the country, automatic fire

alarm installations installed in residential buildings did not fulfill their functions. Choose newer housing to live in.

Regardless of whether you live in a brick or wooden house, in your apartment you choose how each room will look. To do this, you choose finishing materials, mainly from an aesthetic point of view. But not many people think about how toxic the materials used are in case of fire. Most people who die in a fire do not die from burns, but die from toxic combustion products contained in the smoke. It only takes two or three breaths of toxic smoke to lose consciousness.

Building materials have their own classification according to the following properties:

- combustibility;
- flammability;
- ability to spread flame over a surface;
- smoke generating ability;
- toxicity of combustion products.

Combustibility is indicated as follows: “NG”, “G1”, “G2”, “G3” or “G4”;

Flammability is indicated as “B1”, “B2” or “B3”;

Flame spread is indicated as “RP1”, “RP2”, “RP3” or “RP4”;

Smoke generating capacity is indicated as “D1”, “D2” or “D3”,

Toxicity is reported as “T1”, “T2”, “T3” or “T4”, namely:

These letters and numbers can be found in product documents - in fire safety certificates or in the declaration of conformity. The absence of these documents from the seller is a violation of the rules of trade. Let's say you buy linoleum for the floor in your apartment. Ask the seller for a fire safety certificate or declaration of conformity. Find where the classification is indicated, for example: G4, B3, RP2, D2, T2. You can do the same with another type of linoleum and compare the characteristics. The main rule when choosing according to fire safety characteristics is that the lower the number, the safer the material. It is highly undesirable to choose materials with characteristics G4, V3, RP4, D3 and T4.

Choose finishing materials for your apartment taking into account their fire hazard characteristics.

- There are often cases when a fire occurs due to a faulty attention to the following:
 - wires or sections of wires get hot;
 - damage to wire insulation;
 - sparking in electrical installation products, including detachable devices;
 - presence of traces of combustion (soot) on detachable devices;
 - smell of burnt plastic or rubber;
 - crackling sound in plug-in devices;
 - wire color change.
- All of the above indicates that there is a malfunction in the electrical installation products. Failure to comply with the requirements set out in the operating instructions for electric heating devices is also one of the common causes of fires in apartments. This is often due to improper placement of the electric heating device, for example, near flammable materials, but cases of fire occurring due to a malfunction of the electric heating device itself are also not uncommon. In order to avoid a fire for these reasons, it is necessary to follow the requirements of the operating instructions, including: do not leave heating devices turned on unattended, namely: electric kettles, boilers, electric stoves; place devices with heating elements at a distance from flammable materials; do not use faulty devices; Do not use homemade electric heating devices.

- You need to know that balconies and loggias in multi-apartment residential buildings perform an important task, which is associated with evacuation in case of fire. In residential buildings with more than five floors, to ensure safe evacuation of residents in case of fire, vertical staircases are provided floor-by-floor connecting apartments above and below the floors. They are necessary if the only exit from the apartment is blocked by fire.
- Once you go out onto the balcony or loggia, you can go down the stairs to the balcony or loggia below and thereby escape. In order for this to be possible, it is necessary not to clutter the hatches of these stairs with objects, and especially not to weld them or install locks and latches.
- There are also places on balconies and loggias where you can hide from a fire in the apartment for some time before the rescuers arrive. These places are located between openings (windows and balcony doors), their width must be at least 1.6 meters or 1.2 meters if the distance is measured from the edge of the balcony or loggia to the opening in the outer wall. Again, you can use these places for rescue if there is nothing in these areas.
- If there are flammable substances and materials on the balcony, a fire may occur on the balcony or loggia from a thrown cigarette butt from the upper floors, which may fall right to you. To eliminate this, it is better not to store items on balconies and loggias that could catch fire from a cigarette butt (newspapers, rags, etc.). Provide yourself with the opportunity to escape in case of fire through balconies or loggias. You can purchase and install in your apartment at least one autonomous fire detector that responds to smoke. The cost of such devices varies: from the cheapest for 280 rubles to expensive ones, costing more than 3,500 rubles. This device will provide early detection of fires accompanied by the appearance of low concentration smoke in the premises. An autonomous fire detector produces alarm signals in the form of loud sound and sometimes light signals. Light indication is particularly necessary for people with poor hearing. These devices are installed on the ceiling or on the wall, but in any case you must follow the operating instructions. It is also important to install such a detector in the kitchen, so you can quickly find out about burnt food on the stove. If you are sleeping, the device will wake you up when smoke appears in the room in which it is installed. In modern residential buildings, autonomous fire detectors are installed in each room during the construction of the building. At the same time, most residents turn off and remove the detectors. There are several reasons for this: when the battery is low, some detectors emit sound signals, thereby irritating residents who, without studying the operating instructions, believe that the device is broken; during repairs, namely when finishing ceilings or walls; from an aesthetic point of view. In the bathrooms of residential buildings built in the 21st century, they are installed dangerous to your life.
- In high-rise buildings, smoke protection systems are provided, which are designed both to remove air and, along with it, smoke, and to supply air into elevator shafts and smoke-free staircases in order to prevent smoke from reaching other floors through the elevator shaft and along the evacuation route. These systems should be activated automatically, but manual activation from buttons is also provided.
- The easiest way to quickly put out a small fire is to have a fire extinguisher at home.
- Some homes have safety zones that are marked with a “Gathering Place” sign. If for some reason you cannot leave the building on your own during a fire, in such rooms or areas you can wait for help from rescuers or even wait out the fire.
- If there are household appliances in the apartment that run on flammable gas, another possible cause of fire is added. Use only working gas equipment in your apartment. Each gas appliance

has an instruction manual. Connection of gas equipment must be carried out by specialists. So flexible hoses should be as short as possible, no more than two meters. The fastening of gas hoses must be reliable. It must be remembered that every four years these hoses need to be replaced with new ones, but it is better more often. At the slightest suspicion of a gas leak, it is necessary to turn off the gas equipment, find and eliminate the cause of the malfunction. Thus, the tightness of gas-conducting hoses can be detected: by applying a soap solution to the surface of the hose and the connection points; listening to hear the characteristic whistle; through the sense of smell, the smell of gas becomes stronger near the leak.

- If gas does get into the room, it is necessary to exclude the possibility of its ignition, for which: do not use electrical equipment, including lighting and plug-in devices; be careful not to allow a spark to appear; intensively ventilate the premises by opening the windows; if possible, turn off the gas supply; Call an emergency gas service specialist.
- According to statistics, about half of all people killed in a fire were intoxicated. Therefore, alcohol consumption can also be considered a possible cause of fire. In a state of alcohol intoxication, people have impaired coordination of movements, drowsiness and loss of attention. Tipsy people may fall asleep after lighting a cigarette and drop the cigarette without noticing it. There are a great many options for careless handling of fire while intoxicated. Death due to careless handling of fire is too expensive a price to pay for one's own negligence.
- Children's pranks with fire often lead to a fire in the apartment. Such fires occur due to the curiosity of children and their lack of knowledge about the dangers posed by flames. To prevent children from being tempted to play with fire, I recommend that parents themselves show that fire is dangerous. Nowadays there is a lot of video and photographic materials posted on the Internet. Show your child how apartments burn. In addition, to avoid children playing with fire, it is necessary to remove and hide matches and lighters. The main task of parents is to prevent a possible tragedy.
- If a fire does occur, it is necessary to follow the rules of conduct in case of fire.
- Rules of conduct in case of fire
- If, upon leaving the apartment at the entrance, you find yourself in thick smoke, you should immediately return to the apartment. Close the door tightly behind you and stuff wet rags into door cracks and vents.
- If the room is heavily filled with smoke, go towards a smoke-free staircase or towards the exit. Using the elevator during a fire is strictly prohibited.
- If the fire spreads in a small room, do not open windows and doors: access to fresh air and a draft will intensify the flames.
- If the fire is small, then try to cover the flame from above with something (a blanket, a rug, a coat) and then pour water on it. Do not remove burning objects from the fire: this will only contribute to the spread of the fire. Start extinguishing with water or sand from the edges, moving towards the center.
- If furniture catches fire, you need to be especially careful, since modern furniture made from synthetic materials is very toxic if it catches fire. There is no need to place burning furniture on the balcony, as fresh air will only increase the combustion. Do not try to cover furniture with wet, thick cloth or pour water on it if the fire is already high. In this case, immediately leave the apartment and call the fire department.

List of used literature

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