



## Grenfell Tower fire

Everyone will be aware of the tragic incident at Grenfell Tower in London where many have died, were injured or made homeless. We know that you may be concerned about your own safety in light of this event. We want you to know that your safety is our highest priority and we will do everything possible to make sure you feel safe in your home.

There has been considerable speculation about the potential cause of the fire in the media. Until investigations and inquiries are complete we won't know the full picture. However, many reports have

identified the possible role of over-cladding in the rapid spread of the fire.

Over-cladding is when additional panels are fitted to buildings to make them warmer and less noisy. **The material used in over-cladding tower blocks in Edinburgh is non-flammable.** It is what is known as a mineral based material and is not the same as the material reportedly used in Grenfell Tower and we believe it is much safer. Tower blocks which have not had cladding work done have concrete walls and are regarded as being very non-flammable.

## How we keep you safe



The Council's housing teams carry out daily inspections of your tower blocks to ensure stairwells are kept clear and any essential repairs are carried out quickly. Fire safety equipment is checked and maintained as part of a planned programme of maintenance. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service checks tower blocks each year and distribute fire safety leaflets to residents.

The Fire Service also offers free safety visits and can fit your homes with free smoke alarms. To book a free fire home safety visit call **0800 0731 999** or text **'FIRE' to 80800**.



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## How to stay safe

The Fire Service emphasises that residents in tower blocks are at no more risk of having a fire than those living in other types of housing. That said, we understand residents are keen to make sure their building is as safe as possible. The Fire Service provides advice on steps that can be taken to support fire safety:

- keep common areas such as stairways, corridors or drying rooms clear to protect escape routes and reduce the risk of fire spread
- report any damage to lifts, fire alarm panels, fire doors and dry riser landing valves as they are there to assist with firefighting operations
- keep all doors in common areas closed. They are fire resistant

and fitted with self closing devices. These should never be wedged open

- do not store any gas cylinders, flammable liquids or fuels within the building
- keep emergency vehicle parking areas clear to allow firefighters access to fire.

For more information and advice please check out the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Multi Storey Fire Safety leaflet. This can be downloaded at:

[www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) or you can pick up a copy from your concierge office.

If you become aware that there is a fire in your tower block the current advice from the Fire Service is to remain in your home unless you are directly affected by heat or smoke. Tower blocks are designed to contain fires within

flats and stop them spreading. Investigations are underway to find out why this didn't happen at Grenfell Tower.

Everyone can play their part in keeping buildings safe. If you are worried about anything you can talk to your concierge or housing patch officer. If you see something blocking hallways or escape routes please report it immediately and we will get it removed.



## What else are we doing?

We will carry out a full review of fire safety in our tower blocks and have appointed an external fire safety adviser to help us do that. We want you to feel as safe as you possibly can in your home and we will do everything we can to make that happen.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the review through your housing patch officer and concierge service, on our website and through the Tenant Courier.

As part of the review, we will be establishing a Fire Safety Tenant and Residents Panel which will be open to residents from tower blocks across the city and we will ensure that you all have an opportunity to be involved. We will also undertake a survey of all tenants in tower blocks to ensure everyone has an opportunity give us their views.

## Get in touch

If you would like to:

- **be involved** in the Fire Safety Tenant and Residents Panel, please contact [Tenant.Panel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Tenant.Panel@edinburgh.gov.uk) or call **0131 529 7172**.
- **discuss** anything contained within this leaflet or if you have any other concerns please contact the Council, through the concierge service, your housing patch officer or locality offices. You can also contact Repairs Direct on **0131 200 2345** from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, or **0131 200 2000** outwith these times.



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