

July 2017

Dear Resident,

## Fire safety in your home

We have all been shocked and saddened by the Grenfell tower block fire and our thoughts remain with all those affected.

The safety of our residents continues to be a priority and I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you about our stringent fire safety measures at emh homes and also to inform you about the things that you can also do to keep safe in your home.

We do not own or manage any properties that are clad in the ACM (Aluminium Composite Material) that had a major contribution to the spread of the fire at Grenfell tower, nor do we have any high-rise buildings defined as tower blocks. However we do have 300 low rise multi-occupancy blocks and conduct regular fire risk assessments on them all. They have a range of fire alarm systems fitted which are installed to British Standard 5839 and are subject to a 6-monthly servicing and maintenance programme. We comply with all statutory requirements.

Our fire safety partnership with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue makes sure that our fire safety procedures across all our homes meet the highest standards to ensure you are safe in your home.

*In addition, our preventative measures include:*

- ▶ Gas safety checks on all properties undertaken annually
- ▶ Fire risk assessment (annual)
- ▶ Emergency light servicing in schemes (6-monthly)
- ▶ Electric safety tests on communal areas through an on-going programme
- ▶ Regular checks in communal areas within schemes
- ▶ Fit smoke detectors in communal areas
- ▶ Sprinkler systems in designated properties/sheltered schemes and for vulnerable residents where appropriate (9 systems)
- ▶ Fire safety qualified staff
- ▶ Communication to residents promoting fire safety – through residents magazine and annual report to tenants



# Fire safety is everyone's responsibility

*We believe that everyone has a responsibility for fire safety and expect all residents to comply with the following safety guidance:*

- ▶ Take care when cooking, most fires start in the kitchen
- ▶ Never leave unattended candles burning
- ▶ Make sure cigarettes are properly extinguished
- ▶ Do not keep flammable materials in any communal store cupboards or keep bottle gas canisters in your home
- ▶ Ensure that your home is fitted with smoke detectors and check them frequently
- ▶ Ensure that all communal areas are kept clear of rubbish and other items
- ▶ Take responsibility for rubbish and make sure it is disposed of appropriately
- ▶ Make sure mobility scooters, bicycles or other items are not left in corridors if you live in a flat or somewhere that might hinder your exit in your home
- ▶ Know your escape routes should they be required in an emergency – and make sure everyone who lives in your home knows how to escape
- ▶ If you have had external wall insulation and you notice any damage to it, please let us know using the contact details below.

If after having read this you still feel concerned about the fire risks in your own home or if you would like more advice call **0300 123 6000** or email [enquiries@emhhomes.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@emhhomes.org.uk) we will do our best to help you.

*You can also take a look at the government's advice online:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/make-your-home-safe-from-fire>

We will keep you updated with any further relevant information and continue to work with our involved residents groups on the things that matter most to our residents.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Ashton,  
Executive Director (Housing), emh homes

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[www.emhhomes.org.uk](http://www.emhhomes.org.uk)

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