If you live in an apartment, your landlord should provide you with fire safety facilities e.g. smoke alarms, fire doors, fire blankets and information on what to do in the event of a fire.

Section 18(3) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 states that *“It shall be the duty of every person, being on premises to which this section applies, to conduct himself in such a way as to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, any person on the premises is not exposed to danger from fire as a consequence of any act or omission of his”.*

***What to look out for in your building***

Fire safety in all buildings is also dependent upon good maintenance and housekeeping.

In apartments, it is essential that:

* All apartment front doors and doors on corridors and staircases must be ‘self-closing’ fire doors;
* Fire doors must ‘self-close’ properly, and not be held or wedged open. They are designed to stop the spread of fire;
* The fire detection and alarm system in the apartment is working and is tested weekly by you;
* A fire blanket should be provided in the apartment;
* Common escape routes shared by other apartments should have emergency lighting, a fire detection and alarm system and fire extinguishers maintained and tested by the landlord;
* Items are not stored in corridors or staircases. This can block escape routes and prevent firefighters doing their job. Such items can also contribute fuel to the fire;
* Storage on balconies is kept to a minimum;
* Everyone who lives in the building knows the evacuation plan. Are there signs to show you how to escape in the event of an outbreak of fire?

If you are concerned about any of these things, contact your landlord.

***What should I do if there is a fire?***

**If your apartment is being affected by fire or smoke and your escape route is clear:**-

* Get everyone out, close all windows and doors and walk calmly out of the building;
* Do not use the lift, if provided;
* Call 112, give your address, the number of your apartment and state which floor the fire is on;
* Get out and Stay out!

**If there is a fire or smoke inside your apartment but your escape route is NOT clear:**-

* It may still be safer to stay in your apartment until the fire brigade arrives;
* Find a safe room, close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the ingress of smoke;
* Go to a window, shout “HELP, FIRE” and call 112;
* Be ready to describe where you are and the quickest way to reach you;

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service can also be contacted at fireadmin@kilkennycoco.ie.

****