

About Hotel Fire Safety



Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service



LIKE ALL BUILDINGS, HOTELS CAN HAVE FIRES.

Fortunately, most are not serious, and your chance of being caught in one is slim.

If you are in a hotel during a fire, it's essential to know that your worst enemies are:



Smoke

It can quickly fill a room or corridor, and blind and suffocate you. Deadly gases can overcome you in seconds



Panic

It can make you act foolishly and lead you into danger. The smart traveller knows what to do in a hotel fire.

Resolve now to learn and remember these procedures ... they could save your life!

PLAN AHEAD

As soon as you check in, look around carefully and decide on an emergency escape plan.

Look for possible escape routes - on the way to your room, make a mental picture:

- Locate the nearest fire exit and fire extinguisher
- Remember the direction and distance of the nearest exit from your room
- Ensure you have an alternative escape plan should this exit be involved in fire
- Locate the nearest fire alarm point and read the operating instructions

Inspect your room

- Study the layout of your room
- Determine how to open the windows
- Read the fire emergency information provided, including instructions for reporting a fire

Always keep your key handy near your bed.



IN CASE OF FIRE,

ACT FAST



Warn of fire or smoke immediately
by operating the nearest fire alarm.

If the fire is very small, fight it if safe to do so.

Never fight a fire if it is between you and your escape route.

Get out immediately if it gets too big. If the fire is in your room, close the door as you leave to keep the fire from spreading.

Don't ignore any alarm - day or night. Get out right away.

Remain calm

If your room is smokey, drop to your hands and knees and crawl to the door. (Air is fresher at floor level).

If you encounter smoke when making your escape, be cautious and move fast.

- Take your key - you may have to return to your room if trapped
- Only enter smoke if you have to. Use an alternative smoke free escape route
- If you encounter smoke keep a wet cloth tied over nose and mouth
- Close all doors behind you as you go

In the corridor

- If there's no smoke, walk to the nearest exit
- If there's smoke crawl to the exit, counting any doors you pass so if the smoke gets too thick you can return to your room without getting lost

Before you open any door feel the handle. If it is hot, don't open the door. If cool, open it slightly, then look into the corridor. Be ready to slam it shut if you find thick smoke or flames.

Proceed down stairs calmly

- Hold onto the rail
- Never use a lift in a fire

If you're stopped by heavy smoke

Go back to a smoke-free corridor and find another staircase, or retreat to your room if an alternative escape is not possible.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED IN YOUR ROOM

If the corridor outside your room is unsafe, stay in your room; be prepared to stop the smoke/fire entering the room

Stay low to floor. Tie wet cloth over nose and mouth for easier breathing. (Note: this won't filter out deadly gases).

Fill bath with water. You may need it to dampen down your room.

Open the window slightly if there's no smoke outside. Break the window only if necessary - you might need to close it later.



Signal for help by using the telephone, waving sheet, flashing light, etc.

Seal the room against smoke entering from outside.

Stuff wet towels, sheets, etc., in cracks around door.

Turn off air conditioner and fans, or seal up vents.

Throw water onto hot surfaces (walls, doors).

Use an ice bucket, waste bin, etc.

Remove curtains, wet down window if fire is right outside.



Don't jump from above the first floor - your survival chances are greater if you wait to be rescued.

HOTEL FIRES DON'T HAVE TO END IN TRAGEDY

You can survive by being prepared:

- **Plan** for possible escape when you check in.
- **Know** what safety measures to take to protect yourself from a fire.
- **Think** before you act if a fire occurs.



Stay calm - keep a cool head!