

# Fire



It is frightening and dangerous. Fire that gets out of control is always a disaster. There are a number of causes for a fire at home or in public buildings: faults in the electricity, work that constitutes a fire hazard, carelessness in the household work, negligence when barbecuing food, or the overheating of electrical appliances. Regardless of whether the result is an open fire or a smouldering fire, the consequences are frequently disastrous. You can take effective measures to prevent this, and you can protect yourself. Here, you can read what you should do.

Conflagration





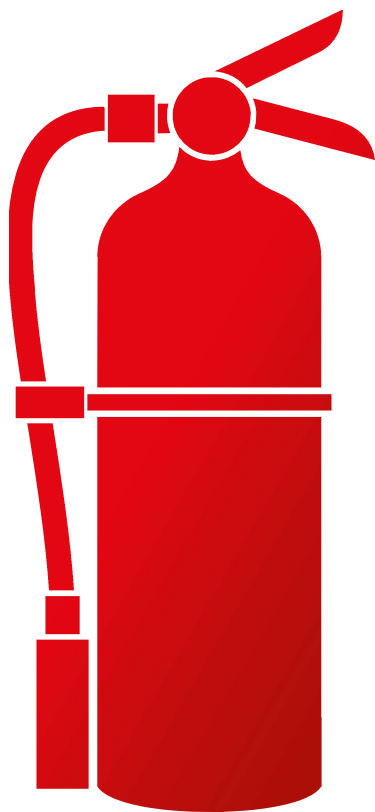
## Before the fire

- › Install smoke alarms in all the rooms, apart from the kitchen and the bathroom. You can find more information on the next page.
- › Do you have a fire extinguisher in the house? Learn how to use it correctly and have it serviced regularly. Put a fire extinguisher in your car, but secure it well there. This is not prescribed by law, but the German Insurance Association (GDV) records 16,000 car fires (fire, explosion, heat damage) per year.
- › All important documents and papers should go in a briefcase so that they can easily be taken away with you. You can find more information in the section “Document security”.

**LITTLE EFFORT,  
GREAT IMPACT,  
SAVES LIVES**

- › Never leave naked flames, such as candles or fire, unattended.
- › Remove highly flammable materials in the cellar.
- › Regularly clear out the attic and remove particularly flammable materials from the corners and pitches of the roof.
- › Ensure that the electrical appliances and installations in the house are in order. Replace defective appliances and old extension leads.

**MORE ATTENTION  
FOR MORE SAFETY**



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## Well-informed, better protected

Regardless of where you are, you should inform yourself about a few things in advance:

- › Find out how to reach the nearest staircase in the event of a fire. Do not use lifts!
- › Locate the fire extinguishers and find out how to use them.
- › Do you know how and where you can make an emergency call? Ask about it.
- › You have a disability or a companion who is disabled? Ask about support with evacuation.
- › Memorise the escape routes in hotels, clubs, cinemas etc. In the event of panic or a fire, this will save your life.

### TIPS FOR AVOIDING DANGER

- › Hallways and staircases should not be restricted or blocked altogether by objects. The escape route must be free.
- › The main door of an apartment building should have a lock with a panic function so that the door can be opened from the inside at any time, in the event of an emergency.
- › Doors in escape routes must be kept closed – but never locked. This prevents the fire from spreading or the escape routes from filling with smoke.
- › Fire hydrants or fire brigade access routes may not be obstructed.
- › The building's safety facilities should be regularly checked and serviced.





# What a safe house should have

There's no fire without smoke and poisonous gases. Escape routes then quickly become unusable, or the fire results in smoke poisoning or, in the worst case, in suffocation. Smoke alarms on the ceiling can save lives.

## SMOKE ALARMS

Standard smoke alarms are as big as the palm of your hand and can be installed without any problems. They can be operated as individual smoke alarms or networked with one another by radio and have a penetrating, acoustic alarm signal. For deaf people, there are devices with a flashing light or a vibration alarm. During installation, attention must be paid to the VDS and DIN EN 14604 certification, as well as to the Q-label (higher quality).

Always fit the smoke alarm horizontally on the ceiling, as smoke rises. When fitting the smoke alarm, observe the manufacturer's instructions. A number of devices have a test button for checking the alarm. They indicate when the battery has to be replaced.



## SMOKE ALARMS BELONG HERE:

- › Bedrooms
- › Children's rooms
- › Living and dining rooms
- › Halls and staircases
- › Cellars and attics

No smoke alarms in the bathroom and the kitchen! Steam triggers a false alarm.



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You can obtain further information from the fire brigade and fire insurance institutions or at

[www.rauchmelder-lebensretter.de](http://www.rauchmelder-lebensretter.de)

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Every company, and ideally every private household, should have fire-fighting equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire extinguishing spray. The size can vary depending on the legal requirements and the potential risk of fire. Ask your local fire brigade about this.

All fire-fighting equipment only helps in the development phase of a fire. After all, the discharge time of fire extinguishers is limited. Therefore, do not put yourself in danger when attempting to extinguish a fire. The specialist trade can give you information about operation and extinguishing capacity.

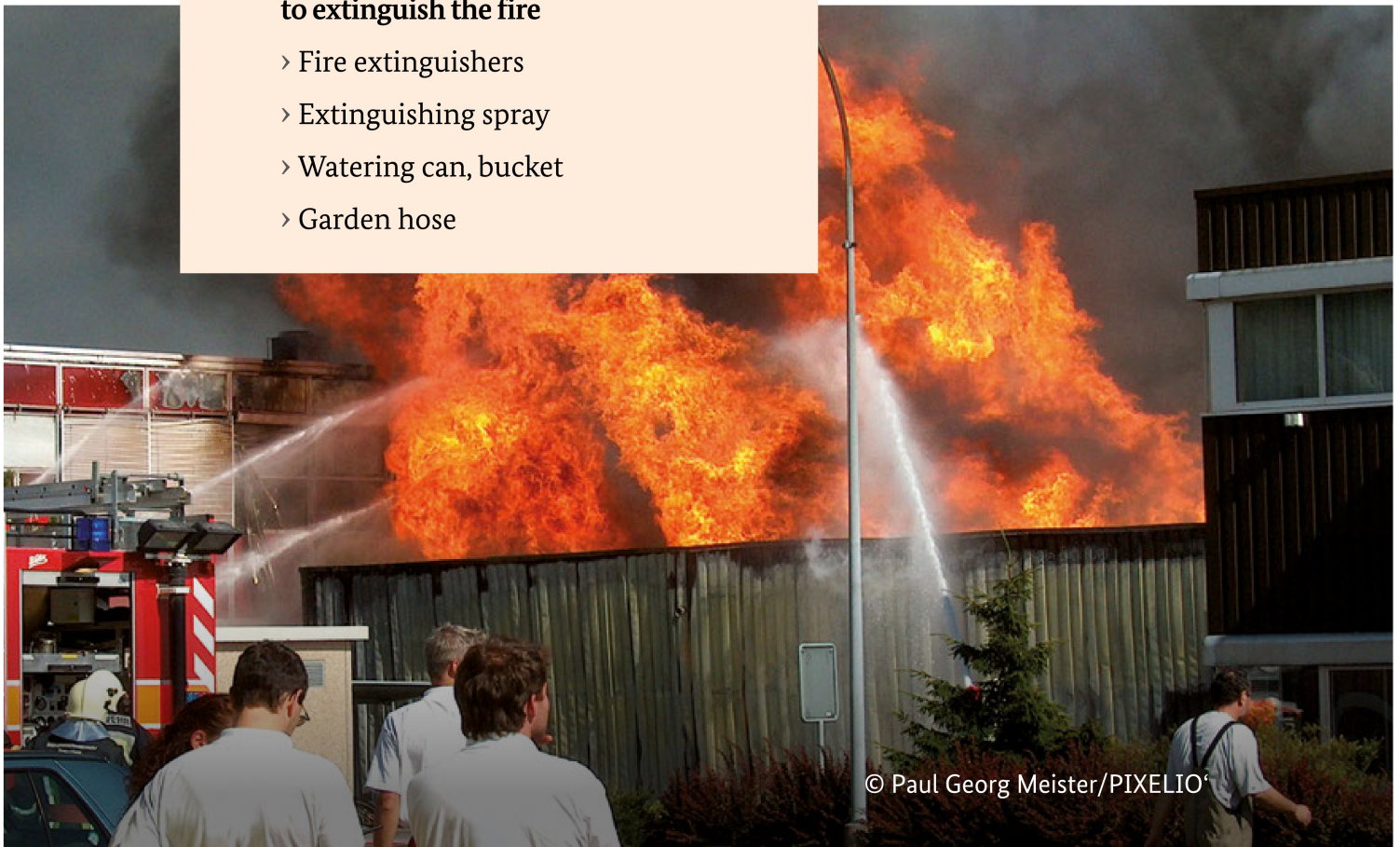


## FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

**for small fires or initial attempts to extinguish the fire**

- › Fire extinguishers
- › Extinguishing spray
- › Watering can, bucket
- › Garden hose

The rescue workers are standing by





# What should you do if there's a fire?

A fire in the house is always an exceptional situation. Every second counts. But in spite of everything, you should not panic or do something ill-considered. As a basic rule: the safety of people always takes precedence over any fire-fighting measures!

## You discover a fire? Proceed as follows:

Try to nip the source of the fire in the bud.

- › Only make an attempt to extinguish the fire if you are not in danger!
- › Never extinguish burning fat or other liquid fuels with water. This can result in a very high tongue of flame – this is life-threatening! If it is possible without endangering yourself, turn off the power source or take the pan off the hob. Put a lid on the pan to stifle the fire. Only use special fire extinguishers which are suitable for fat fires (Fire Class F).
- › Turn off the electric power in the danger zone before starting to extinguish the fire! Caution – risk of electric shock!
- › Always extinguish a fire from the bottom to the top and from the side to the middle!
- › Never enter rooms that are filled with smoke! Poisonous noxious fumes form there. If you are in a room filled with smoke, move forwards, crawling along the floor. Close the door from the outside and alert the fire brigade on 112.

## 1. THE FIRE IS JUST STARTING