



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 11

### Fire Safety Advice for People Travelling Abroad

Fire safety standards and fire evacuation procedures may be significantly different in other countries compared to the standards that you may be familiar with in Northern Ireland. In some holiday resorts, local regulations designed to preserve the historic nature or aesthetic beauty of a property may affect the level of fire safety provided.

To help ensure your safety when you first arrive at your hotel or accommodation, you should plan how you and your family/party would leave or evacuate the premises if you discover a fire or if the fire alarm were to sound. To aid safe evacuation, you should familiarise yourself with the following:

- the fire instruction notice in your hotel room – usually located on the back of the door;
- consider how you would leave the building by locating the nearest exit;
- identify alternative exits to use if your nearest exit were to be blocked by fire. NB - your nearest exit may lead into a stairwell;
- walk the escape routes (including stairwells) from your room to familiarise yourself with them, ensure that they are clear and that they lead to a safe place outside the building;
- familiarise yourself with how to raise the alarm should you observe any symptoms of fire. This will normally be via actuation of a break glass point. Many break glass points in other countries require you to push/pull a switch to activate the alarm after you have broken the glass in the call point; and
- rendezvous points - ensure all your family/party knows where to meet following an evacuation of your building.

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, alert your family/party, leave the building via the nearest exit and make your way to the identified assembly point. Do not re-enter the building until advised it is safe to do so by hotel management. If you, or any of your group, have mobility issues, inform management (in order that they may adjust their evacuation plan) and consider requesting accommodation on the lower floor levels. If you have any concerns about fire safety in your building you should seek clarification from the hotel manager or your tour representative regarding the building fire procedures and your safety.

Anyone staying in a private house or apartment should always ensure that there are working smoke alarms in the property to give warning of fire. Check with the rental agent or the landlord of the property if smoke alarms have been fitted. If you have any concerns about the presence of smoke detection within a private house or apartment that you are proposing to stay in, you may wish to consider booking elsewhere or to consider taking a battery powered smoke detector with you on holiday to give you a measure of safety in your rented accommodation.

Remember to test any smoke alarms that are fitted within your private holiday house or apartment to ensure that they are working correctly.

Checks should also be made with the rental agent or the landlord of the property to see if carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been fitted where applicable. Further guidance is available through the following link - [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk).

Finally, the telephone number for emergencies varies from country to country and it is important that you are familiar with the correct emergency telephone number to call should you need the Fire & Rescue Service whilst abroad.

Other fire safety areas that should be taken into consideration during summer months and holiday times are:

- Barbeque safety
- Camping safety
- Wildfires
- Caravan and mobile home safety
- Chinese/sky lanterns
- Boat safety

For further information phone NIFRS HQ 028 9266 4221 or visit [www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org)



#STOPfire