



FIRE SAFETY POLICY

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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1** This Fire Safety Policy is to ensure Eastlight Community Homes (hereafter ‘Eastlight’) meets its legal, statutory and regulatory obligations as a landlord and employer.
- 1.2** The Policy applies to employees, involved residents, consultants, Non-Executive Directors, volunteers, representatives of Eastlight, contractors and third parties who carry out Eastlight duties on our behalf and by our instructions.
- 1.3** We are committed to ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent and control the risk from fire to our residents’ homes, offices and commercial properties. We will complete Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs), work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders and maintain fire protection equipment.

2. Scope

- 2.1** This Policy covers all buildings under our ownership and management, and where we are the “Responsible Person” for Fire Safety. This includes the communal areas of blocks for flats, maisonettes, retirement living, supported living, houses of multiple occupancy and commercial buildings, such as offices.
- 2.2** The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Eastlight policies:
 - Health & Safety Policy;
 - Gas Safety Policy;
 - Electrical Safety Policy; and
 - Decant Policy.

3. Our Commitments

3.1 Statutory & Regulatory Reference

3.1.1 This Policy is designed to ensure Eastlight meets its obligations under the following legislative and regulatory requirements:

- Fire Safety Act 2021;
- Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022;
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO);
- Building Safety Act 2022;
- Housing Act 2004;
- The Building Regulations 2010;
- Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;
- The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999;
- The Furniture & Furnishings Regulations 1988;
- The Building Regulations Approved Document B;
- Fire safety in purpose-built blocks of flats;
- PIBS Personal Information Guide v2; and the
- Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.

3.2 Our Roles & Responsibilities

3.2.1 We will assign regulatory duties to suitable positions within relevant departments, ensuring individuals responsible for fulfilling these duties receive proper training and have the necessary authority to execute a safe fire safety management regime.

3.2.2 Duty Holder: Overall responsibility for health and safety at Eastlight sits with the Board & Executive Management Team.

3.2.3 Responsible Person: Head of Compliance & Estates.

4. Fire Risk Assessments

4.1 Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) will be carried out on a regular basis, with a frequency advised by the previous FRA for all Eastlight owned and managed properties. FRAs will be carried out by an appropriately accredited competent person to all buildings covered by The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Where FRAs are completed by Managing Agents or other third parties, copies will be requested and retained by Eastlight. This will be monitored through our procurement and annual contractor reviews.

- 4.2** We have adopted a risk-based approach to FRA inspections, ensuring onsite assessments are carried out as per the frequencies below:
- **Annual assessment:** Housing for Older People and commercial buildings
 - **Annual assessment:** Buildings identified as “high risk”
 - **Triennial assessment:** All other blocks.
- 4.3** FRAs will be reviewed when any significant changes affect the fabric or use of the building.
- 4.4** FRAs are stored electronically on our asset management database and FRA actions are managed through to completion.

5. Maintenance

- 5.1** All fire safety systems will be tested and maintained in accordance with regulatory and statutory requirements. This will include the completion of remedial works identified during any testing or maintenance activities.
- 5.2** We will ensure all properties we are responsible for have working mains or battery powered carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke/heat alarms installed and regularly tested.
- 5.3** Fire doors within communal areas within residential buildings containing two or more flats are periodically inspected and maintained, ensuring they are in good working order.
- 5.4** We will ensure fire escapes routes, fire doors, fire alarm call points and any firefighting equipment are clearly marked. Escape routes are to be kept clear at all times across all blocks.
- 5.5** The actions to follow in the event of a fire will be building specific and determined by the Fire Risk Assessment.
- 5.6** Each building will have an evacuation strategy clearly defined within the FRA. The evacuation strategy will be agreed with the competent person undertaking the FRA.
- 5.7** All buildings will conform to the prevailing Building Regulations at the time of construction or major refurbishment works.
- 5.8** Buildings undergoing alterations will conform to the Approved Document B (Fire Safety) to achieve and maintain the fire compartment integrity for the required time. All corridors and staircase enclosures designated as escape routes will be protected routes. These routes should be unobstructed and should only contain the minimum of furniture/curtains.

6. Governance

- 6.1 We will provide monthly performance oversight to the Operational Health & Safety Committee, as well as the Executive Management Team.
- 6.2 We will provide quarterly performance oversight to the Board.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for this Policy was conducted. As a result, actions have been put in place to mitigate any negative impacts.

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