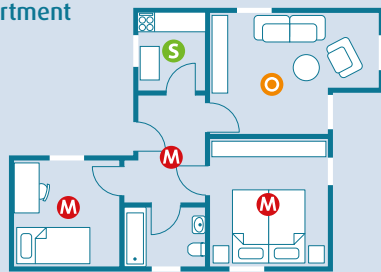


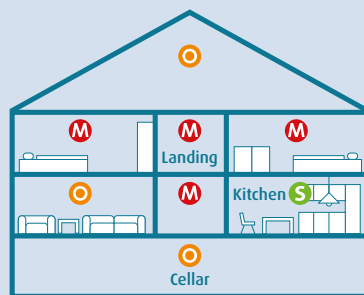
Smoke detectors save lives

As even just a few inhalations of smoke from a fire can be fatal, a smoke detector is the best lifesaving device you can have in your home. Two thirds of all victims of fires have been surprised at night while asleep. The loud smoke detector alarm therefore warns you of a fire even if you are sleeping so that you can get yourself and your family to safety and call the fire brigade. In most German states, owners and landlords are legally obliged to fit their homes with smoke detectors.

Three-room apartment



House



- M** Minimum protection: One smoke detector on the hall and landing, in the child's room and in the master bedroom
- O** Optimum protection: Living rooms, attic, cellar
- S** Special protection: For the kitchen: special fire detectors

Emergency number: 112

The fire brigade and rescue services (ambulance/emergency doctor) can be called around the clock on the emergency number 112. The police can be called on 110. If you hear an automatic recorded message, do not hang up; someone will be on the line in a moment.

What language do I need to speak when I call 112?

If you do not speak German, you can also provide the necessary information in English. Please learn or write down the most important sentences for an emergency call if there is a fire in your home or on the stairwell:

There's a fire ...	Es brennt ...
... in my home/ on the stairwell	... in der Wohnung/ im Treppenhaus
There are ... people injured	Es gibt ... Verletzte
I live at ... (address)	Ich wohne ... (Adresse)

Wait for any response questions in case the person you are speaking to at the fire brigade has not understood everything – do not just hang up!

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Photographs: Jo Neander (Cover photo), Stefan Wagner

Help to prevent fires and their consequences!

Most fires in homes can be prevented by observing a few important rules:

- Never leave candles or open fires unattended
- Never smoke in bed
- Do not store flammable items, pushchairs or similar in stairwells or cellar corridors as these are popular with arsonists
- Never conduct work on electrical cables or similar without proper knowledge of what you are doing
- Never cover lamps or electric heaters with fabric items – these can burn
- Tell your family what to do in the event of a fire
- Install smoke detectors as warning devices. In most German states, the installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in private households is now required by law
- Never park on fire brigade access routes or in areas for the fire brigade

There's a fire – what should I do?

If a fire breaks out, the first thing you should do is call the fire brigade on the emergency number 112. Once you have reported the fire, the fire brigade will attend within a matter of minutes. Do not rely on someone else having called the fire brigade.

There is no call-out fee for the fire brigade!

Version A: there is a fire in your home

- Leave your home as quickly as possible, taking your family to safety
- Warn your neighbours
- On leaving your home, close the door so that the smoke and fire cannot spread any further. This provides a safe escape route for you and others
- Do not use lifts as you may be suffocated by smoke
- Once outside, call the fire brigade on 112 and wait for it to arrive



Version B: there is a fire in the stairwell

- Remain in your apartment. Do not try to escape down the stairs as this can be fatal
- Close the door to your apartment so that the smoke cannot get in
- Call the fire brigade and wait by the window or on the balcony. The air is fresher here and the fire brigade can see you more easily. The fire brigade will save you. 'Emergency hoods' are usually used for this. These are pulled over your head and have a respiratory filter so that you can still breathe even in smoke-filled rooms. The fire brigade will then lead you safely down the stairs and outside. Children or people who are injured will be carried if they are unable to walk
- Do not try to lower yourself or even jump from a window. The fire brigade will help and save you