



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Fire Survival Guidance

Brigade Control Training Section

Home Office

10/93

Aim

The purpose of fire survival guidance is to advise callers who are trapped as a result of fire in all premise types on the action to take that will provide them with the best chance of survival.

Objectives

To identify those callers who require specific guidance

To follow accurately the pre-determined guidance

To assess the information gained and offer appropriate guidance

Basic Principles

Give advice on **ESCAPE**

Assess and re-assess

PROTECT the caller

Assist the **RESCUE**

If the caller is inside establish....

Can the caller escape to safety?

YES

Advise the caller to **“Get out and stay out”**

Fire not inside (Purpose Built Flats)

If the fire is **NOT** in the caller's flat and they are **NOT** affected by **HEAT** or **SMOKE** it is usually safest to remain in their flat

If they ARE being affected they should get out

Fire not inside (Purpose Built Flats)

If they remain in their flat and their situation changes they should **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**

If they cannot get out **RING THE FIRE BRIGADE**

All Fire Situations

If you establish that the caller is safe and not in danger you should advise them to ring back if their situation changes

Fire is inside – caller can't get out...

What type of property is the caller in?

House, HMO, Bedsit, flat etc.

Select the required link in the FSG RIF

Inform a Supervisor of the FSG Call

Escape

Why can't the caller escape to safety?

WHAT IS PREVENTING THIS?

Fire

Incapacitation

Smoke

Obstruction

Locked doors

Escape

Is there an alternative means of escape?

Window onto a flat roof

Balcony

Secondary staircase

Other

Assess

Is there a lot of smoke, is this preventing communication or access to escape?

Advise the caller:

Get as low as possible where there is less smoke and the air is cleaner.

Escape may be easier

Caller may be able to talk to you

Reassure the caller

Inform the caller you are going to give them

some advice that will help to keep them as safe as possible until the FFs arrive.

Explain firstly that you need to ask some questions.

Assess

Do you know where the fire is/what's on fire?

Which room are you in? Where is this in relation to the fire?

Which floor are you on?

Questions will be dependant on the type of property. See FSG RIF

Assess – for example

Establish if the room the caller is in is located at the front/back of property.

Is anyone else in the property/where are they are in the property.

Record essential information.

Passing information to crews

Always maintain effective communication with responding appliances – keeping appliances informed of developments e.g. location of persons trapped – will be essential throughout the call to aid rescue

Protect

Can the caller get to another room further from the fire?

Is it safe to do so?

Protect – Advise caller to:

Close doors between self and fire

Seal door edges

Open window – close if smoke coming in

Cover mouth/nose with wet cloth to help filter out smoke

Keep low to avoid heat and smoke

Rescue

Advise caller to:

Try to attract attention from a window and make as much noise as possible to aid rescue

Hang sheets or similar from the window to provide a marker.

Reassure

The FFs are on the way, they know where you are.

The FFs are there.

Re-Assess regularly

Keep checking - has their situation changed? Ask them to tell you if it does

Is there more smoke / heat/ flames?

What can they see?

What is happening now?

Imminent Danger

Is the caller in imminent danger?

YES

Can they get out via window (ground/1st floors only)

Escape – imminent danger

Check for hazards below

Don't jump

Drop soft materials on ground to break fall

Lower children as far as possible, get adult to break fall where possible.

Get out feet first and lower yourself to the full length of your arms before dropping

Escape – Imminent danger

If window is locked:

break glass with firm blow using a hard sharp object aimed at the corner of the pane. Knock out any glass left at the edges and cover jagged glass with clothing or bedding to protect against sharp edges”

Imminent danger

As a **Last Resort** if escape cannot be made ask:

Is there anything else you can think of to do that will get you out of the building?

Re-Assess

Always Re-Assess

Always check current situation

Fire Survival Guidance

The FSG RIF provides links to the relevant advice depending on the type of property affected and should be used at all times when dealing with a Fire Survival Call.

End