



## **Fires in the home, prevention and emergency planning**

Fires in the home and in Communities are sadly on the increase during the winter months. Due to this it is essential for the fire prevention regulations to be complied with and for actions to be taken to avoid this type of accidents. The Technical Building Code (Código Técnico de la Edificación – CTE) includes the specifications that any newly built property or a property that is going to be refurbished, will need to include for fire prevention.

This Code describes the equipment and fire protection installations that Communities of owners should have:

- Portable Fire Extinguishers. There must be 15m (49 feet) between each Fire Extinguisher on each floor of the building.
- Equipped Fire Hydrants.
- Fire detection system and alarm.
- Emergency lighting in buildings with over 100 occupants.
- Hydrants (for the exclusive use of the Fire Brigade).
- Dry riser systems.

All these elements are very important when there is a fire to be put out.

To avoid these accidents, we recommend a series of **Prevention Tips**:

- If you think that you can smell gas, do not switch a light on as this could spark and cause a fire.
- We have to be careful with cigarettes. You have to make sure that they are out and do not smoke in bed as you can fall asleep.
- Heaters and stoves. Keep the burners clean. It is recommended that an authorized technician checks that they function correctly on a yearly basis.
- Don't leave the iron on when your phone rings or when you hear the doorbell.
- Fire places should have a fire guard.
- The Electrical installation should be checked regularly.
- Before you leave home, make sure that the gas is turned off.
- If you have various items plugged into the same plug they can overload the electrical system and cause short-circuits. Only use approved multi socket adapters with a CE stamp.

- If a pan sets fire, cover it with a lid. The fire will go out when it runs out of oxygen.

To be sure that the Fire Prevention system that your community has in place is the best option available, it should be supervised by duly registered companies.

The Chartered Community Administrator always works with service providers that comply with these requirements.

If you have any questions, contact your Chartered Community Administrator.

**This is a message from the Official College of Chartered Community Administrators for Malaga and Melilla.**