

Safety in your building

7 October 2020

Vantage Point
Berger Road,
Hackney
E9 6FG

Dear Residents,



The Hive
22 Wembley Park Boulevard
Wembley
HA9 0HP

www.networkhomes.org.uk
customerservice@
networkhomes.org.uk
0300 373 3000

Communal wide fire alarm system.

Following several observations from residents within The Archer Tower please be aware that the alarms system is being tested more thoroughly on Friday 9 October.

AJS (our contractors that service the alarm system) will sound the alarm in the afternoon throughout the development. **The alarm will sound on at least 5 separate occasions.**

You should only evacuate your home if the sounders stay on for a prolonged period of time.

We're doing this as some residents reported that the alarm system was not sounding within their homes when AJS have been on site carrying out the weekly test.

If you have witnessed the issue of the alarm test not sounding in your home, please contact us at buildingsafetyteam@networkhomes.org.uk.

Following a virtual meeting organised by the neighbourhood team on 16 September, we said we would work with residents to secure your trust. You should expect a building safety update from us next week, where we will also feed back on the fire alarm tests planned for this Friday.

General fire safety information

The alarm system will continue to be **routinely tested every Friday at 4pm**. There may be occasions where the alarm sounds a little later than 4pm, for example if our technicians are delayed. We understand the disruption the fire alarm test causes and will do everything we can to minimise these occurrences, so the test takes place at 4pm.

To be clear, **if you hear the alarm sound, you should evacuate the building** – this includes if the alarm does not stop at 4pm on a Friday.

All escape routes need to remain clear, so please ensure no items are left in the communal areas.

We will remove and dispose of all items in the communal areas. Flammable items such as BBQs, gas bottles, cardboard and packaging should not be stored in your home. You also should **never have a BBQ on your balcony** and try to **avoid smoking on your balcony** as the London Fire Brigade advise these are some of the leading causes of fire in blocks of flats. Last year, a fire in Barking destroyed 20 flats and this was started by a BBQ on a balcony.

Your fire strategy

Here's a recap of what to do if there is a fire in your flat, you hear the alarm or the concierge tells you to evacuate:

- Evacuate immediately closing all doors behind you as you leave your flat.
- Leave the building using the nearest staircase. This will be shown on the fire signage within your block. **Do not use the lift.**
- Call 999.
- If you are responding to an alarm raised by the concierge, you should follow any instructions they give you.
- Tell the concierge and Fire Brigade if any members of your household require assistance to evacuate.
- Gather at the assembly point **Pavement in Berger Road, opposite Homerton Station** (map below). Wait at the assembly point until you are told by the fire brigade/warden/concierge to return to your home.



Got a question? Then get in touch on customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk or **0300 373 3000**. Thank you again for allowing us access into your homes to make these improvements.

Yours sincerely



Sam Drinkwater
Neighbourhood Team Leader (Building Safety)