



# New Fire Alarms Standard

Stakeholder Toolkit



Safer  
Scotland  
Scottish  
Government

# The campaign

**By February 2022** every home in Scotland will be required to have interlinked fire alarms. Alarms that talk to each other – so that when one goes off, they all go off – helping everyone to react quicker and save more lives.

The Scottish Government will launch an awareness campaign on 19th August informing the public about the change in the law and the importance of interlinked alarms.

The campaign will explain what types of alarm are required in every home and what each homeowner will have to do.

This toolkit contains information on what you can do to help support the campaign and to help ensure that everyone who needs it has access to the right information and support suited to them.

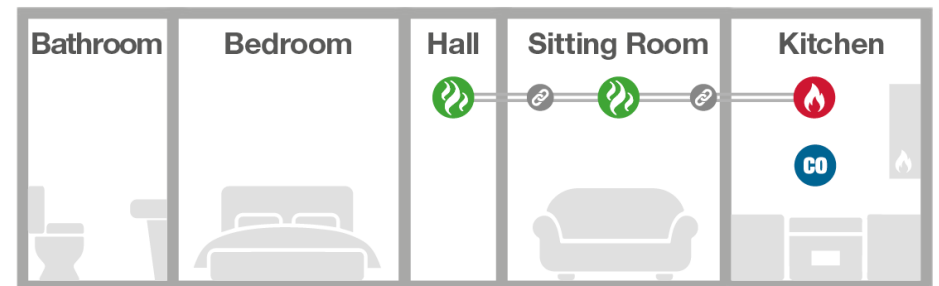






# Overview

- ★ The law on fire alarms is changing. By February 2022, all homes in Scotland will be required to have interlinked fire alarms, meaning if one alarm goes off, they all go off. This will alert you to danger more quickly, no matter where you are in your home.
- ★ The new legislation requires all homes to have:
  - ✓ One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
  - ✓ One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
  - ✓ One heat alarm installed in the kitchen
  - ✓ All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked

- ★ Where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance, such as a boiler, fire (including open fires) and heater, a carbon monoxide detector is also required. This does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.
- ★ If you live in a one bedroom flat, you will need two smoke alarms and one heat alarm. If you have a carbon fuelled appliance like a boiler, you will also need a carbon monoxide detector.

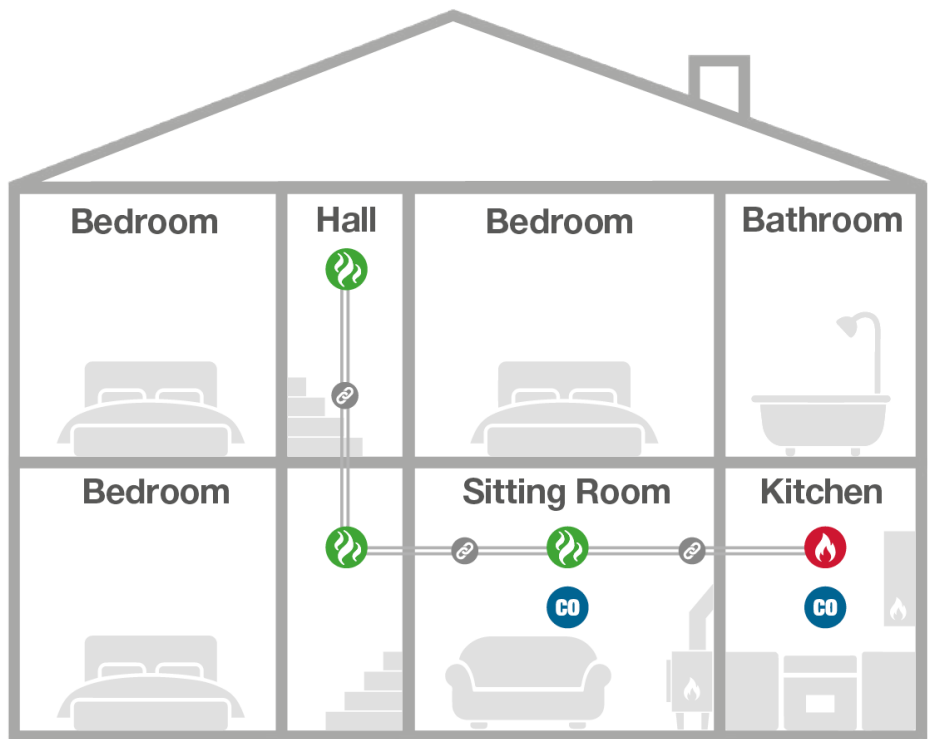
## One bedroom flat



-  **Smoke Alarm**  
In hallway and main living space
-  **Heat Alarm**  
In kitchen
-  **Carbon Monoxide Alarm**  
Fitted where there is a fuel-burning appliance
-  **Interlinked Alarms**

- ★ A 3 bedroom, 2 storey house will need 3 smoke alarms and one heat alarm. If you have a carbon fuelled appliance like a boiler, you will also need a carbon monoxide detector.

3 bedroom house



- Smoke Alarm**  
In hallways and main living space
- Heat Alarm**  
In kitchen
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm**  
Fitted where there is a fuel-burning appliance
- Interlinked Alarms**

- ★ There are two types of alarms available:
  - ✓ Tamper proof long-life battery-operated alarms, which can last for up to 10 years, and can be fitted by the homeowner or a handyperson.
  - ✓ Mains wired alarms, which should be installed by a qualified electrician.
- ★ The homeowner is responsible for making sure their home meets the the new fire alarms standard, and for finding a contractor to carry out the work.
- ★ When purchasing an alarm, choose a reputable brand and make sure the packaging clearly displays compliance with BS EN14604:2005 for smoke alarms. Carbon monoxide alarms should have the British Kitemark (EN 50291-1). Heat alarms should comply with BS 5446-2:2003.
- ★ To find out more about the new legislation and the support available, visit:

[mygov.scot/firealarms](http://mygov.scot/firealarms)

# How you can get involved

There are lots of different ways you can get involved with the campaign and we appreciate your help in sharing the campaign message.

The campaign will run across TV, Radio, Digital and will be supported with PR and Partnerships. It will include details of interlinked fire alarms and how they work. It will explain how and when the law is changing and what it means for householders - including exactly which alarms will be required in every home and where they should be positioned.

## Partnerships

We are actively looking for opportunities to work with like-minded partners and we can provide the following assets:

- posters
- social media graphics
- information leaflet

To get involved contact  
Stuart O'Malley at Leith Links  
[stuart.omalley@leith.co.uk](mailto:stuart.omalley@leith.co.uk)

## Social media

The Safer Scotland Facebook page will have several social media and digital assets, including campaign visuals, that will be available for you to share on your own channels.

**These can also be downloaded here**



**What are interlinked fire alarms?**

By February 2022, every home in Scotland needs interlinked fire alarms. Alarms that talk to each other - so when one goes off, they all go off - helping everyone to react quicker and save more lives.

You might not hear the alarm closest to the fire, especially if you're somewhere else in the house. An interlinked system alerts you to danger immediately wherever you are in your home.

**Are they battery-powered or mains-wired?**

There are 2 different types of interlinked fire alarms:

- 1) Sealed long-life battery alarms, which you can fit yourself.
- 2) Mains-wired alarms, which should be installed by a qualified electrician.

Both meet the new fire safety standard. And both are linked by radio frequency without the need for WiFi.

**Where do the alarms go?**

**Every home needs:**

- 1 smoke alarm in the room you spend most of the day (usually your living room)
- 1 smoke alarm on every floor, either in the hallway or on the landing
- 1 heat alarm in the kitchen

All should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.

**Will I need anything else?**

If your home has a carbon-fuelled appliance - like a boiler, fire, heater or flue - you'll also need a separate carbon monoxide detector. **These do not have to be interlinked.**



mygov.scot/firealarms

Safer Scotland  
Local Government

# Example social media posts

By February 2022 every home in Scotland must have interlinked fire alarms – so that when one goes off they all go off. Find out what the new law means for you.  
[mygov.scot/firealarms](https://mygov.scot/firealarms)

The law on fire alarms in Scotland is changing. If you're a homeowner find out what you will need to do to ensure you have interlinked alarms by February 2022.  
[mygov.scot/firealarms](https://mygov.scot/firealarms)

Fire alarms that talk to each other are safer for everyone. Check what type of alarms you will need to install by February 2022.  
[mygov.scot/firealarms](https://mygov.scot/firealarms)

## We will support partners and stakeholders on social media.









Our support will include retweeting / sharing your information through our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We would also appreciate your support in sharing our messages through your own channels.

 Our Facebook page is here:  
[www.facebook.com/saferscot](https://www.facebook.com/saferscot)



# Assets

Please see links to a range of materials below to help you support the campaign:

- 
**Illustration**  
 Diagrams showing where fire alarms need to be installed
- 
**Information leaflet**  
 The leaflet is available in Audio, **BSL**, Large Print and Easy Read formats, and in additional languages.
- 
**Social media graphics and infographics**
- 
**An explainer video**
- 
**Link to the national TV advert**
- 
**Poster**
- 
**Download Fire Alarm Standards Illustrations, Explainer Video, Leaflets, Social Media, Infographics and Posters via WeTransfer here**
- 
**Download Fire Alarm Standards TV Ad and BSL Leaflet Videos via WeTransfer here**



As the campaign progresses we will also be able to share short case study films to highlight key safety messages and the ease of the installation process - these will be shared on the **Safer Scotland Facebook page**.

# Where to find out more

For general guidance on interlinked fire alarms and frequently asked questions, visit:

[mygov.scot/firealarms](https://mygov.scot/firealarms)

For advice on fire safety or to request a Home Fire Safety Visit, contact The Scottish Fire and Rescue service on **0800 0731 999** or visit:

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx>

If you have any concerns about meeting housing standards, contact your local authority:

[www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council](https://www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council)

For help with installing alarms if you're elderly or disabled contact your local Care and Repair service [www.careandrepairsotland.co.uk/office-locations.html](https://www.careandrepairsotland.co.uk/office-locations.html). There is also funding available for those that are eligible for support - you must own your own home and this must be your main residence that has a council tax band of A-C, be of state pension age and in receipt of guaranteed Pension Credit, or have a disability and be in a support group for Employment and Support Allowance.

If you are concerned about a cold caller or about what a tradesperson is telling you, please call Trading Standards Scotland on **0808 164 6000**

For any other queries please email the Scottish Government policy team:

[newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot](mailto:newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot)



# Contact

We're looking forward to working with you on the Fire Alarms campaign. If you want to get involved or have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact the team.

## Scottish Government - Marketing

Lee-Anne Chapman

[leeanne.chapman@gov.scot](mailto:leeanne.chapman@gov.scot)

## Scottish Government - Policy

[newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot](mailto:newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot)

## PR

Katrina Muir, Smarts

[firealarms@smarts.agency](mailto:firealarms@smarts.agency)

To find out more visit  
[mygov.scot/firealarms](https://mygov.scot/firealarms)



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