

ARE YOUR FIRE DOORS WORKING PROPERLY?

FIVE EASY THINGS TO CHECK DURING FIRE DOOR SAFETY WEEK WHICH MIGHT JUST SAVE YOUR LIFE

[London, 16 September 2013] Fire safety experts are warning of the dangers of dodgy fire doors and telling people to check fire doors wherever they live, work and play as part of Fire Door Safety Week which starts today.

Fire Door Safety Week is all about raising awareness of this critical element of fire safety in every apartment block, hotel, office, restaurant, bar and other commercial and public buildings. There are about 3 million new fire doors bought and installed every year in the UK.

All of us are being urged to carry out a quick visual check of any door with a 'fire door' sign on it, and to report all doors that look damaged, are being propped open or are not closing correctly.

John Fletcher, manager of the BWF-CERTIFIRE Scheme which is behind the initiative, says:

"A fire door is no ordinary door. It's an engineered safety device, and it can and will save your life and property if it's made, fitted and maintained properly.

"The law says that we must be protected by suitable fire doors in almost all the buildings we use every day – offices, factories, schools, shops, restaurants and hotels, as well as flats, apartments and bedsits, and in some other homes which have rooms in the roof, for example, or integral garages.

"But we all need to make sure these doors operate correctly at all times. Every building owner, and every one of us as building users, should carry out some simple checks this week and report dodgy fire doors. Spread awareness, not fire."

The 5 Fire Door Safety Week checks are:

1. Make sure the door is not damaged or wedged /propped open, with no large gaps around the edges, and the door is marked correctly with the appropriate signage.
2. Look for a label or plug or similar marking on the top or edge of the door to show that it's a certificated fire door.
3. Ensure the door closes firmly around all parts of the frame and that the closer is fitted securely.
4. Check the hinges are firmly fixed into the door and frame with no missing screws.
5. Report any problems immediately to your landlord, the maintenance department or to the relevant or responsible person.

There is also a free poster for students and housing tenants which can be downloaded from the Fire Door Safety week website here: <http://firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk/tool-kit/>

Fire Door Safety week is supported by the Fire and Rescue Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, and the Government's Fire Kills campaign.

Follow Fire Door Safety Week on Twitter @FDSafetyWeek or search for tweets with hashtag #firedoorsafetyweek.

www.firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk

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Issued on behalf of the BWF-CERTIFIRE Scheme by Liz Male Consulting Ltd

Further information from:

Liz Male / Vickie Cox, tel. 01908 551976 / 07778 778361