

Councillor Stephen Cowan

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Dear resident

15 September 2016

Shepherd's Bush fire – tumble dryer safety

As you may be aware, London Fire Brigade (LFB) has confirmed that an Indesit tumble dryer is believed to have caused a major tower block fire in Shepherd's Bush on Friday 19 August.

Thankfully, although several homes were badly damaged, no one was seriously injured in the fire.

H&F Council and LFB are now urging residents to check if their tumble dryer is one of several models which were subject to recent manufacturer's safety notice and if so, stop using it immediately.

There is particular concern with tumble dryers manufactured by Hotpoint, Indesit and Creda between April 2004 and September 2015.

You can find more information about which appliances are affected at <https://safety.hotpoint.eu> or call Whirlpool customer service on **03448 158989**.

Though the manufacturers involved say that the machines are safe to use under certain circumstances, the London Fire Brigade's advice is simple — if your appliance is subject to a safety or recall notice, you haven't had it modified or replaced, or you think something is wrong with it, unplug the machine immediately and contact the manufacturer or a qualified repair technician.

You can find out more about LFB's 'Total Recalls' campaign at www.london-fire.gov.uk/total-recalls-white-goods-campaign.asp

H&F Council has already started a review of all the appliances used in council buildings.

Tumble dryer safety

- Don't leave your tumble dryer running overnight or while you are out.
- Don't overload plug sockets. Ensure that no more than 13 amps are in any one plug socket.
- Do have working smoke alarms and test them regularly, ideally once a week.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean the filters after every load so they do not become blocked with fluff.
- Items should be removed from the dryer immediately after the cycle and shaken loose to assist cooling.
- Don't cover the vent or any other opening.
- Ensure the vent pipe is free of kinks and is not crushed in any way.

You can also register your domestic appliances for free at **www.registermyappliance.org.uk** to receive updates of any safety repairs or product recalls on your appliances.

London Fire Brigade also offer free, home fire safety visits for older people living alone and people with mobility, vision or hearing impairments. You can book an appointment by calling **0800 028 4428**.

We're taking the risks of tumble dryer fires very seriously and we'd urge you to do so too.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line above the letters.

Cllr Stephen Cowan

Leader of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham