

Building Hazards in the News

Look in local newspapers for stories about emergencies involving risks to people's safety - such as fires and falls. Examine the language used, how the articles are structured and the information they include.

Write an article for a local newspaper about an emergency in a block of flats. The people involved should be fictional but the article could be inspired by real hazards around the home.

The article could be based around:

- someone slipping on spilt drink at the top of the stairs and falling down them
- someone injuring themselves on broken glass on a floor landing
- a heavy musical instrument falling off a high shelf onto someone's head in a flat
- someone cutting themselves using a saw in the shed
- a fire starting in the stairwell
- someone falling from a second story window
- someone receiving an electric shock in the hallway
- someone burnt or scalded in the bathroom
- someone tripping over rubbish in the flat basement
- an idea of your own.

Your article should hold the readers' interest and get across important messages about safety. It could cover:

- what happened and why
- when it happened
- who was involved (and, if appropriate, who was responsible for the hazard)
- the result (e.g. injuries, hospital)
- how the hazard could be avoided in future
- how keeping safe can also help others.

Challenge

With your classmates, come up with a list of safety rules for your school, inspired by the articles on the block of flats.