

NEWS FROM ENFIELD COUNCIL

To: Newsdesks

From: Enfield Council Press Office

Website: www.enfield.gov.uk

Date: xx February 2015

Ref: 0515light

Photo Opportunity

XX Thursday 14 May

16 Dodsley Place

Off Montagu Road

Edmonton N9

Enfield lights the way to fire safety

Eighty-five year old, Colin Lee, an Enfield Council resident of Dodsley Place in Edmonton is delighted with the installation of new safety lights to guide all residents in two blocks - an 18 storey and a four storey - if fire breaks out.

Enfield Council is the first in the country to respond to the need for measures of this kind and the new system is fully certified and compliant with legal safety requirements.

Mr Lee, who is registered 'blind' is now able to find his way with the new system of low level lighting that can be seen easily even in thick smoke.

He said, "For me this is a great reassurance. Now for the first time in ten years I can make out the lights and find my way to my flat. It is certainly helpful to everyone who lives here - a great improvement since it illuminates the stair cases too."

Cllr Ahmet Oyken, Enfield Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, added, "This is the first photoluminescent low level emergency lighting system fitted into a high rise residential block, anywhere in the UK.

"It clearly defines steps and leads people to safety. We wanted a good safe system to prevent people becoming trapped – and one that gives them the confidence to find the safe routes to escape.

"Our senior management team, worked alongside specialist fire risk consultants, Euro Compliance. The decision to install the system followed a review of the recommendations in the two Coroners' Rule 43 letters relating to fires in Southwark's Shirley Towers and Lakanal House."

The system provides everything that Enfield Council is looking for and fulfils all of the recommendations and legal requirements in all areas relating to signage and emergency lighting.

Most importantly for Enfield Council it provides their residents with a system that will guide them out of the building in the event of a fire and smoke conditions but it also provides critical information to fire fighters.

Phil Williams, Operations Director, at Euro Compliance, said, "I congratulate Enfield in taking this worthwhile decision. This is a fire safety system with international backing. In Tokyo and New York, it is a stipulated requirement by the cities' Fire Authorities. It will provide peace of mind for the residents of Dodsley Place."

Photoluminescent systems eliminate the requirement for electrical emergency lighting as well as its testing, maintenance and in some cases the upgrading of systems. It is estimated that these systems, will save Enfield Council millions of pounds.

Notes to editors

Enfield Council manages over 11,000 homes.

Photoluminescent emergency lighting systems

Photoluminescent guidance systems emit light after absorbing photons (electromagnetic radiation), from any light source, either natural or electrical.

Materials used in manufacturing the systems are made from a non-toxic and non-radioactive pigment called Strontium Aluminate that consists of a phosphor which utilises europium doped alkaline oxide.

Low level photoluminescent systems are currently used around the world in passenger aircraft, all passenger and commercial ships, passenger trains, oil rigs, underground and metro train tunnels and stations, road tunnels, hotels, high rise buildings, public and commercial buildings, sports arenas and stadiums, opera houses, the Pentagon, British military vehicles and many other places.

- A photoluminescent system can save millions on the maintenance and installation of electrical systems. It is a more economic and effective alternative
- The system is fitted at low level below smoke reservoirs, whereas most electrical emergency lighting is fitted on the ceiling (smoke reservoir) where in many cases it will be useless in smoke (as will conventional electrical lighting)
- The system is already a legal requirement in many countries around the world and has been for many years
- These systems are also legal requirements on aeroplanes, all commercial ships, passenger trains and oil rigs

For more information/images please contact
Phil Williams on 07823 331846
phil.williams@eurocompliance.co.uk