

## 1. LINK FIRE PREVENTION TO FAÇADE CLADDING

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Absolute safety cannot be guaranteed and must not be pretended. Security risks must be reduced to what is reasonably possible. Architectural and technical facilities can make an important contribution to this.

Inevitably, there is always a residual risk. There is no "zero risk society". In other words: society must strive to prevent calamities, it must also be aware that such a calamity can nevertheless occur. It is impossible to give a 100% guarantee that people will not become victims of fire. Adequate fire safety facilities and measures in conjunction with good assistance can, however, significantly reduce the risk of this happening.

Fire prevention is aimed at preventing fire and influencing events in the event of fire, with the main aim of regulating escape safety in the event of fire, fire control and the safe and effective action of emergency services (internal and external emergency services). Damage prevention of a building is not one of the main goals.

The general principle here is that the fire service must have the fire under control within 60 minutes after it has started, which means that the fire is prevented from spreading further. At that moment, the last persons threatened by the fire must have been rescued with the help of the fire brigade.

The protection against fire is comparable to "dealing in time" during a certain fire development. In the first instance, intervention of the seat of the fire takes place at the location of the fire, then in the room where the fire started, by extension on the first floor and then in the (fire) compartment of the building.

If the aforementioned intervention moments are unsuccessful, the fire has grown beyond the compartment. Then the building is on fire. A building on fire is a much more threatening situation than a fire in a building. In the event of a fire in a building, the construction is still reliable, in a building on fire this is not always the case.

In that case, in addition to the inventory, the construction materials of the building are also heavily burdened by the fire. The fire service will mainly be deployed outside the building, opting for a defensive approach that focuses on protecting the environment and abandoning the building. When a building is on fire, there is often also fire spread through the facade.

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