

READING THIS MAY



SAVE YOUR LIFE

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is committed to providing Home Fire Safety Checks and smoke alarms to the most vulnerable people in our community.

Privacy Notice for Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC)

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) will process your personal information to carry out a Home Fire Safety Check with the purpose of reducing the risk of fire, serious injury or death and improving health and wellbeing.

We need to process your information to carry out tasks to help improve your safety in relation to Section 6 (Fire Safety) and Section 7 (firefighting) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. We are carrying out these tasks in the public interest.

As well as using personal information that we have collected from you, we use data provided by NHS England for the purpose of identifying older people in the community that might be more at risk of fire; for example your year of birth and address.

We will store your information securely in electronic and paper format for 7 years, after which it will be destroyed securely. MFRA may share this information securely with other agencies when necessary for the reasons specified above and we will inform you if this happens.

Profiling is carried out in relation to HFSCs and the calculation of a points score will result in a risk rating being established. We will use this rating to help us decide how to help you improve your safety.

You have a right to request access to the information we hold about you, or to request that we correct, erase, restrict processing or transfer your data to another organisation. You can also object to processing.

For further information about this you can contact the Corporate Information Sharing Officers
dataprotection@merseyfire.gov.uk,
or by phone on 0151 296 4479/4474

If you have any concerns about the way we process your data, you can contact the Data Protection Officer on 0151 296 4301 or email janethenshaw@merseyfire.gov.uk

Alternatively you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.



WWW.MERSEYFIRE.GOV.UK

WWW.FIREKILLS.GOV.UK

0800 731 5958

HOW TO PREVENT COMMON FIRES



Most fires in the home start accidentally and the effects can be devastating. The simple safety information in this leaflet is designed to keep you a lot safer.



SMOKE ALARMS – THEY ARE LIFESAVERS

Smoke alarms can be lifesavers, if they are working, in fact you are seven times more likely to die in a fire in the home if you don't have working smoke alarms.

HAVE at least one working alarm on each level of your home.

TEST them regularly in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines – press to test. ASK someone to help if you are unable to test your alarm.

DON'T IGNORE A SOUNDING SMOKE ALARM – EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOURS, A NEIGHBOUR COULD BE RELYING ON YOU AND YOU COULD SAVE THEIR LIFE - CALL 999 AND ASK FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.



SMOKING – CAN BE DEADLY

If you or somebody in your home smokes you need to take extra care to ensure you stay safe.

NEVER smoke in bed. You could easily fall asleep while your cigarette is still burning and cause a major fire.

USE a proper heavy ashtray that cannot be tipped over easily.

DON'T empty your ashtray straight into a bin as the embers and ash could still be hot and cause a fire.

KEEP matches and lighters away from children.

DON'T leave e-cigarettes charging overnight.

ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's guidelines.



HEATING APPLIANCES – STAY WARM, STAY SAFE

Using unsafe heating methods can often lead to a fire starting in your property.

KEEP heaters away from curtains and furniture and other materials that may ignite.

NEVER dry clothes over a heater or open fire.

ALWAYS use fireguards with open fires and ensure you have your chimney swept regularly.

DON'T move the heater while it is turned on.



KITCHENS – CAN BE DANGEROUS PLACES

More than half of all house fires start in the kitchen. You can prevent this by following the safety tips below.

NEVER leave your cooking unattended. If you need to leave the kitchen for any reason, turn off the heat until you go back into the kitchen. And don't forget to double check you have turned off the hob and the cooker once you have finished cooking.

KEEP loose clothing and tea towels away from flames. They can catch fire quickly and cause nasty injuries or even worse.

AVOID cooking when you are tired/drowsy or have been drinking alcohol.

CLEAN your oven and grill regularly. A build-up of fat or grease can easily ignite and cause a fire.

AVOID using chip pans. Electric deep fat fryers are much safer. **NEVER** put water on a chip pan or oil fire.



ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES – A POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD

More than 28,000 house fires are reported each year as being caused by electrical faults, accidents or misuse.

DON'T overload plug sockets as too many items draw power from the one socket and can overheat – one plug, one socket.

CHECK cables to make sure they are not frayed or damaged and look for any scorch marks around sockets or plugs.

DISCARD any worn or faulty items or appliances. If in doubt get them checked by a qualified electrician.

TURN OFF electrical items overnight that are not designed to be left on.

AVOID charging items such as laptops and mobile phones overnight.

NEVER use appliances through the night – or when people are sleeping – such as tumble dryers. Electric blankets should only be used to warm the bed and not left on whilst sleeping.



CANDLES – DON'T LET THEM GO UP IN SMOKE

A few candles can create a nice warm glow in your home, but remember you are bringing fire into the home, so they need to be treated carefully.

ALWAYS use a suitable holder on a heat-resistant surface when using candles or tealights.

KEEP clothes and hair away from a naked flame as they can easily ignite.

NEVER move lit candles or place them near to curtains or other items that may blow in the wind and ignite.

MAKE sure children and pets cannot get close to candles and knock them over.

DON'T leave them burning overnight or if you leave the room ensure they are put out fully.



BEDTIME ROUTINE – SLEEP SAFELY

Fires that break out while you are asleep can be even more dangerous. The best way to stay safe is to introduce a night time routine that everyone in your home is familiar with.

CLOSE all doors to stop the fire and smoke spreading from room to room.

KEEP keys close by on your escape route and a phone to call for help should there be an emergency.

TURN OFF all electrical devices that you can and don't leave items charging overnight.

MAKE SURE all escape routes are clear of items that may stop you getting out the property safely.



WHEELIE BINS – DON'T MAKE THEM A TARGET

Wheelie bins can be a fire hazard, not only from carelessly discarded items, such as smoking materials, but they are also a very real target for arsonists.

DON'T store your wheelie bin by windows or doors as any fire in the bin could easily spread to your property.

PREVENT your bin by becoming a target – store it away – especially at night.

Anyone can request or make a referral for a Home Fire Safety Check, including for friends, relatives and neighbours.

To help us protect you and your home and to keep your family safer from fire, act now and request a Home Fire Safety Check.

CALL FREE ON 
0800 731 5958

[quoting reference 130]*

Further information is also available at
www.merseyfire.gov.uk
www.firekills.gov.uk

*Calls from non-BT phone lines may be charged, check with your service provider for charges.

ESCAPE ROUTE – HAVE A PLAN

Plan your escape from a fire before it happens. Identify two possible escape routes from every room. Have an arranged meeting place outside in order to be sure that everyone has escaped.

If you are woken by your smoke alarm or the sound of what you think is fire:
STOP - THINK - ACT.

FIRE PLAN 2



- ▶ **SMOKE CAN BE DEADLY**, if you have to go through it, crawl under it.
- ▶ If you cannot use the stairs, get to a room from where it would be safest to drop from the window (onto a flat roof).
- ▶ **ALWAYS** pass children down first.
- ▶ **NEVER JUMP**. Lower yourself to arm's length and drop
- ▶ When everybody is out safely. **DIAL 999**
- ▶ If you cannot escape through a window, use **FIRE PLAN 3**.

FIRE PLAN 1



- ▶ **STAY CALM**. Wake all the members of your family.
- ▶ Make your way out together through the nearest exit.
- ▶ If a door feels hot, **DO NOT OPEN IT**. When outside, call the Fire and Rescue Service. **DIAL 999**.
- ▶ **STAY OUT** of the house until the Fire Service tells you it is safe. If the fire is blocking your way out, use **FIRE PLAN 2**

FIRE PLAN 3



- ▶ If you are trapped in a room by smoke or fire, you need to stop smoke getting into the room.
- ▶ **CLOSE THE DOOR**.
- ▶ **BLOCK GAPS** around the door using spare clothing, towels or blankets.
- ▶ If there is a telephone (or mobile phone) **DIAL 999**
- ▶ If there is no telephone, go to the window and shout **"FIRE!"**
- ▶ If your windows are double-glazed and your only escape route is through them, use a heavy object and aim at the bottom of the window. Make any jagged edges safe with a towel or blanket.



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