**Keeping you safe from fire**

A guide for domiciliary staff

This booklet is part of the Keeping You Safe from Fire campaign being implemented by Adult Social Care and Fire and Rescue Service across the country. It is designed to act as a day-to-day reminder of the fire risks, protection measures and referral processes that every domiciliary care worker, social care worker and any staff involved in the care of people in their own homes, should be aware of.



**Is someone you care for at higher risk of fire?**

People are considered more at risk of fire if they: Are over 60 years of age – or the risk increases further if they are over 75 Live alone Suffer mobility or hearing loss issues Suffer mental health issues including dementia or memory loss Have alcohol or drug dependency Have a learning disability Smoker.

**In Devon in the last four years, the only people to have died in a fire in their home, had one or more of the risk factors above. Taking action now will save lives.**

There is help, advice and specialist equipment available in Devon, to increase protection in the home of a person at higher risk. Most of it is **free**. These include:

**Assessing the risks**

**Facts to consider**

A standard, domestic smoke alarm may not protect someone with dementia

If a person is sedated at night a standard, domestic smoke alarm may not wake them

If someone is confined to bed a domestic smoke alarm may not save them

If a cigarette is dropped whilst falling asleep in bed, it may be too late to save someone

A sprinkler causes less water damage than the fire service hoses

A sprinkler only goes off in the area of the fire

Where sprinklers are fitted – no one has died

A domestic sprinkler system is less than 10% of the cost of residential care for one year.

**Fire safety and dementia**

Dementia places people at additional risk from fire for the following reasons:

They may not remember what the sound of the smoke alarm means

They may not remember what to do if they discover a fire

They are more likely to attempt to fight the fire instead of safely escaping

They are more likely to accidently start a fire.

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| **Advice from specialist fire service officers** | **Free of charge** |
| **Personal home fire risk assessments** | **Free of charge** |
| **Telecare smoke alarms linked to a Telecare community alarm (linked to a 24 hour monitoring centre)** | **Free for the first 12 weeks.**  **There may be a charge after this period\*** |
| **Vibrating pillows for the hard of hearing-linked to Telecare smoke alarm (linked to 24 hour monitoring centre)** | **Free of charge** |
| **Fire retardant bedding** | **Free of charge** |
| **Fire retardant furniture throws** | **Free of charge** |
| **Cooker cut out systems** | **There may be a charge** |
| **Adult at risk bedroom door identification stickers** | **There may be a charge** |
| **Portable and fixed sprinkler systems** | **There may be a charge** |

**Over half of the people who died in fires in Devon had dementia, and they all had standard, domestic smoke alarms. None had a linked community alarm.**

**The warning signs**

**When do you need to make a referral?**

If the answer to any of the questions below is NO, you need to make a referral:

1. Will the person be able to hear the smoke alarm sound?

2. Will the person understand or remember what the sound of the smoke alarm means?

3. Will the person understand or remember that they need to leave the property if the smoke alarm sounds?

4. Will the person dial 999 and ask the fire service to attend?

5. Does the person have a working smoke alarm? (Everyone needs a working smoke alarm whether or not they are considered higher risk).

6. Does the person have a smoke alarm linked to a community alarm (linked to a 24 hour monitoring centre)?

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| **Kitchen** | Burnt pans or cooking.  Rubbish or paper stored around the cooker hob. |
| **Lounge** | Burn marks or discarded cigarettes on carpets and furniture.  Over filled ashtrays.  Use of candles.  No fire guard on open or gas fires. |
| **Bedroom** | Burn marks on bedding or carpets.  Old or damaged electic blanket in use. |
| **All rooms** | Overloaded electrical sockets.  Storage around electrical intake and meter.  Electric or gas heaters close to storage, furniture, clothes drying. |
| **The person** | Burn marks on clothes. |

**Requests for information**

**General enquiries**

Via email, please direct your enquiry to [comments@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:comments@dsfire.gov.uk)

**Home Safety Visit**

To see if you or your clients are eligible for a free home safety visit:

Freephone 0800 73 11 822 or

Text your request to 078 00 00 2476

**FIRE SAFETY LETTER FROM TORBAY COUNCIL**

Dear Provider,

I am writing to you as a precaution in light of the recent tragedy at Grenfell Tower block in London to ensure that you are aware of your responsibilities in relation to fire safety.

As a matter of urgency I will also be seeking assurance that your property complies with current fire regulations and guidance.

**Who’s responsible**

Those responsible for the premises must carry out a fire safety risk assessment, keep it up to date, and use it to ensure that necessary fire safety measures are in place.

You’re responsible for fire safety in business or other non-domestic premises if you’re:

* an employer
* the owner
* the landlord
* an occupier
* anyone else with control of the premises, for example a facilities manager, building manager, managing agent or risk assessor

You’re known as the ‘responsible person’. If there’s more than one responsible person, you have to work together to meet your responsibilities.

The Fire Safety Order also applies if you have paying guests, for example if you run a bed and breakfast, guesthouse or let a self-catering property.

Fire safety rules are different in [Scotland](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Fire-Rescue/FireLaw/FireLaw) and [Northern Ireland](http://www.nifrs.org/firesafe).

**Responsibilities**

As the responsible person you must:

* carry out a fire risk assessment of the premises and review it regularly
* tell staff or their representatives about the risks you’ve identified
* put in place, and maintain, appropriate fire safety measures
* plan for an emergency
* provide staff information, fire safety instruction and training

You can read about how to [make sure your premises are safe from fire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-premises-safe-from-fire).

**Find out more**

* The [Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) website [link to external website](http://www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety)](http://www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety)[1] has advice on the legislation, including premises-specific guidance documents designed to help you meet your responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
* The HSE website has [guidance on fire safety in the construction industry](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/fire.htm)

Please let me know if you believe you will have any difficulty in complying with your responsibilities. You can contact Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service on 01392 872 200

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