

## Home Fire Safety Check

### Are You Safe From Fire?

We, in the Fire Service want to eliminate fires in the home. We would like you to ask yourself how safe is your home from the threat of fire.

Ask yourself the following questions. They identify some of the factors, which can increase the risk of fire occurring in the home and other factors that can reduce the impact of a fire in terms of the damage it may do and the chance of injury.

### Kitchen

1. Is a chip pan in use?
2. Are toasters positioned under wall-mounted units?
3. Are cooking appliances being used to dry clothes or linen?
4. Are all flexes and cables on electrical appliances in good condition?
5. Are plug sockets being used correctly and not overloaded?
6. Are matches and other sources of ignition out of the reach of children?
7. *Are floor coverings free of trip hazards?*
8. *Can you get in and, more importantly, out of the kitchen easily?*
9. *Does the internal door close fully into the doorframe? A closed door that fits well into it's frame will slow the spread of smoke and fire.*

### Living/Dining Room

1. Are fires and heaters safe?
2. Are any fire guards provided?
3. For open fires, are chimneys swept regularly?
4. Are all electrical appliances not in use unplugged, where practical?
5. Are all flexes and cables on electrical appliances in good condition?
6. *Are floor coverings free of trip hazards?*
7. *Are cables/flexes out of sight under carpets/floor coverings, where they may wear and fray dangerously?*
8. *Do the internal doors close fully into the doorframe? A closed door that fits well into it's frame will slow the spread of smoke and fire.*

### Bathroom

1. Are electrical appliances being used in the bathroom?
2. *Are floor coverings free of trip hazards?*



### **Airing Cupboard**

1. Are clothes and linen stored safely?
2. Is the immersion heater cable in good condition?
3. *Does the door close fully into the doorframe?*

### **Bedrooms**

1. Are electric blankets in use?
2. Are electric blankets in good condition?
3. Is your electric blanket over 10 years old?
4. Does the electric blanket carry the British Standard Kitemark?
5. Are plug/sockets being used correctly and not overloaded?
6. Are all flexes and cables on electrical appliances in good condition?
7. *Can you get in and, more importantly, out of the bedroom easily?*
8. *Are floor coverings free of trip hazards?*
9. *Do doors close fully into their door frames?*
10. *If windows are double glazed, is there a window that opens for emergency use?*
11. *Are window locks fitted, are the keys available in each room?*

### **Hall, Stairs, and Landing**

1. Are plugs/sockets being used correctly and not overloaded?
2. Are all flexes and cables on electrical appliances in good condition?
3. *Are exit routes clear of obstruction?*
4. *Are floor coverings safe and free of trip hazards?*

### **Loft (consider the following)**

1. Is there access to the loft?
2. Is the loft free of combustible storage material?
3. Are electric's in good order?
4. Is the loft self-contained, with walls between any neighbours loft, so posing no threat of fire spread to neighbouring properties?
5. *Does loft access door close fully into its frame?*

### **Garage**

1. Are all hazardous or flammable materials stored safely and correctly?
2. Can you get in and, more importantly, out of the garage easily?
3. If door to house is direct from garage, is it a fire door and *does it close fully into doorframe?*

### **Smoke Detection Equipment**

1. Is there a smoke detector on each floor?

2. Is each smoke detector fitted in the right place? - On the ceiling at least 30 cm from any light or wall.
3. Is each smoke detector operational? - Press the test button.
4. Is the smoke detector battery changed every year? (Or in accordance with manufacturer's advice) Some detectors are wired into the mains but may also have a battery – *always check for a battery.*
5. Is smoke detector tested weekly? Use a stick or broom handle to push the test button rather than climbing a step ladder.
6. Is smoke detector cleaned and vacuumed regularly? (6 monthly)
7. Always take great care when changing batteries – make sure the step ladder is safe before climbing it. ***If in doubt get help.***

### **Fire Escape Plan**

Having an effective plan of action in the event of a fire in your home, greatly improves your chances of escaping successfully.

- Draw up an escape plan so that everyone in the house knows what to do if the smoke alarm goes off during the night.
- Establish your route out of the house.
- Include alternative routes in case the main way out is blocked.
- If your escape route is blocked get everyone into one room and close the door. Put bedding or towels along the bottom of the door to stop smoke entering.
- Open the window and stay near it for fresh air and shout for help.
- If you need to escape from the window cover any broken glass with bedding.
- Throw bedding out to break your fall – **Do not jump**: Lower yourself down to arms length then drop to the ground.
- If you have children, elderly or disabled people with you, plan your order of escape so that you can help them out of the building. **Never** leave children to escape on their own maybe for everyone to gather in one room of the house, an upstairs bedroom, the front of the house is preferable, (if it is the middle of the night, are your window lock keys available?).
- Make sure that everyone knows where to gather once they are out of the house.

If you are woken by your smoke alarm or by the sounds of what you think is a fire:

#### **Actions to Take**

- Wake all the members of your family and make your way out together through the nearest exit. If escape routes are clear, leave via the front door.
- Once outside call 999, using the nearest means possible.
- Stay out of the house until you are told it is safe to return.

For further Fire Safety information and advice contact the Fire Safety Helpline on 01926 466282 or visit the Warwickshire County Council Website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue) or the National Community Fire Safety Centre [www.firekills.gov.uk](http://www.firekills.gov.uk).