



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Safeguarding Annual Event Getting Fire Safety on the Radar

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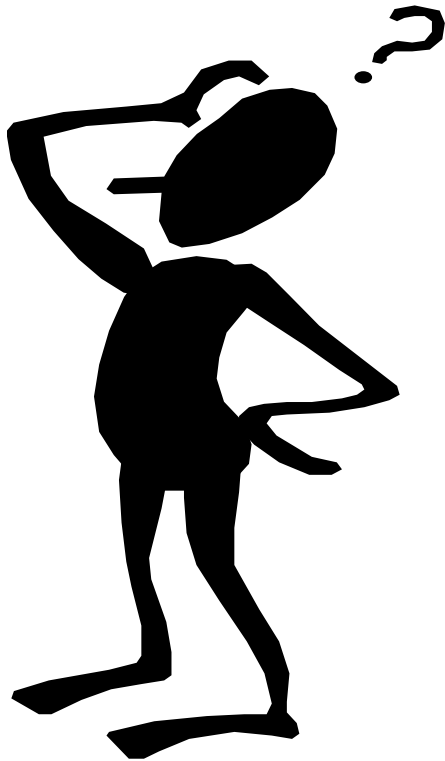
9 November 2017

CSP&P

The majority of people who die or are seriously injured in domestic fires have common vulnerabilities and are known to public service agencies.

‘Some of the most vulnerable people in our society are still dying from fires in places where they should be safe’.

How can we prevent fire deaths and injury?



- ✓ Take fire risk seriously
- ✓ Spot the signs
- ✓ Be responsible
- ✓ Take action!

How can you identify high risk individuals?

New Person Centred Risk Assessment Checklist

LFB

Checklist for Person-Centred Fire Risk Assessment

Name of resident: _____
 Full address: _____
 Date: DD / MM / YYYY Form completed by: _____

1. Does the household have an increased fire risk?

Yes Yes, not a high risk
 No Yes, high risk
 No Improved quality

- Smoking - with signs of unsafe use of smoking or cooking materials (e.g. smoking in bed).
- Use of modified cookers that are prohibited or poorly located.
- A person with a mental health condition or cognitive impairment.
- Use of unsafe or prohibited heaters (e.g. placed too close to materials that could catch fire).
- Unsafe cooking practices (e.g. cooking left unattended).
- Obstructed individual mobility aids/electric or extension leads.
- Hoys or damaged wiring.
- Unsafe electrical use.
- Presence of unsafe entry, doors or window frames or supports and fixtures.
- Unsafe use of fire/light wiring, bellows door in curtains or other items that could catch fire or other hazardous children or pets.
- Other (please specify): _____

2. Would the household be less able to respond to an alarm or fire?

Yes Yes, not a high risk
 No Yes, high risk
 No Improved quality

- Mental health issues (e.g. severely hearing or dependent).
- Cognitive or physical accessibility issues.
- Alcohol dependency or misuse of drugs.
- Temporary requirements (e.g. loss of hearing or sight lead).
- Other (please specify): _____

3. Does the household have a reduced ability to escape?

Yes Yes, not a high risk
 No Yes, high risk
 No Improved quality

- I have reduced mobility, am frail or have a history of falls.
- Any child or young person in the house.
- Lack of capacity to understand what to do in the event of a fire.
- Lack of capacity to evacuate or take action in a fire (e.g. use of stairs).
- Any child or young person in the house.
- Internal doors are not open at night.
- Would be unable to unlock front door in an escape.
- Other (please specify): _____

4. Are there any visible or heard alarms fitted within the household's home?

Yes If yes, please specify which rooms have been fitted: _____
 No _____

5. Has a suitable emergency alarm been fitted anywhere that gives an audible alarm to all?

Yes If yes, please specify which rooms have been fitted: _____
 No _____

What to do next

If there are any questions to questions 1-5 that have been answered 'Yes', you have been identified that there are increased or high alarm risks, or they are broken or poorly fitted, this suggests there is a risk from fire. Immediate actions are required to ensure urgent safety measures are in place.

If you are a family you either are an informal carer or a formal carer for a person with a mental health condition or cognitive impairment, please contact the LFB Fire Safety Team on 020 8323 2300. If you are a family you either are an informal carer or a formal carer for a person with a mental health condition or cognitive impairment, please contact the LFB Fire Safety Team on 020 8323 2300. If you are a family you either are an informal carer or a formal carer for a person with a mental health condition or cognitive impairment, please contact the LFB Fire Safety Team on 020 8323 2300.

If you are an employee of a company or organisation, please contact the relevant manager for an LFB Fire Safety Assessment to be conducted where necessary.

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Please notify the Fire Service

What happens during a house fire? Firefighters or trained staff will visit the house and offer advice based on the fire risk. This includes information on how to prevent fire, the importance of smoke alarms in detecting a fire and having escape plans in the event of a fire. They will also check smoke alarms if required.

A Fire Safety Officer (FSO) is available from London Fire Brigade and can be downloaded from our website. You can find the safety advice has also been provided below.

Prevention

- It is advised to smoke and cigarettes should be used outside and always make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
- Never smoke in bed or anywhere else, if there is a suspicion of falling asleep.
- Use fire safe advice and fire resistant building, lighter and appliances.
- Ensure portable hand held fire extinguishers are placed in a safe, accessible location.
- Consider the fire alarm system should be replaced to suit the fire risk. Consider fire or any other type of alarm system of any form (e.g. fire, smoke, carbon monoxide).
- Make sure you are aware of the location of fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations.
- Check fire alarm system is working.
- Close all doors at night as this helps to prevent fire and smoke spreading.
- Check off and empty individual items such as TV and avoid charging devices for mobile phones or tablets.

Early warning and detection of a fire is essential

- In a minimum, fit at least one smoke alarm using tested fire alarm and any connected to a fire alarm. The ideal position for these are usually bedrooms that are used the most, in hallways and any other individual rooms in the house.
- Fit multiple linked smoke alarms, that all activate together in the event of a fire. For safety, the position of a smoke monitoring system may also be affected.
- Special alarm can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to danger - for example vision and hearing impaired or deaf or hard of hearing.
- Remember to test all alarm monthly.

Escape

- Make sure you are aware of anything that may obstruct or block your route.
- Ensure emergency exits are clearly open and free from any items that may obstruct or block your route.
- Check fire alarm system is working.
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Why use the Person Centred Risk Assessment checklist?

Since 2015 Coroner has issued eight PFD
99 accidental dwelling fire deaths April 2014 -
date

Of these:

Smoking featured in 67 cases

With additional risk factors including limited
mobility, in receipt of care and telecare

The majority of these individuals were not known
to the Brigade

How does the Person Centred Risk Assessment Checklist help?

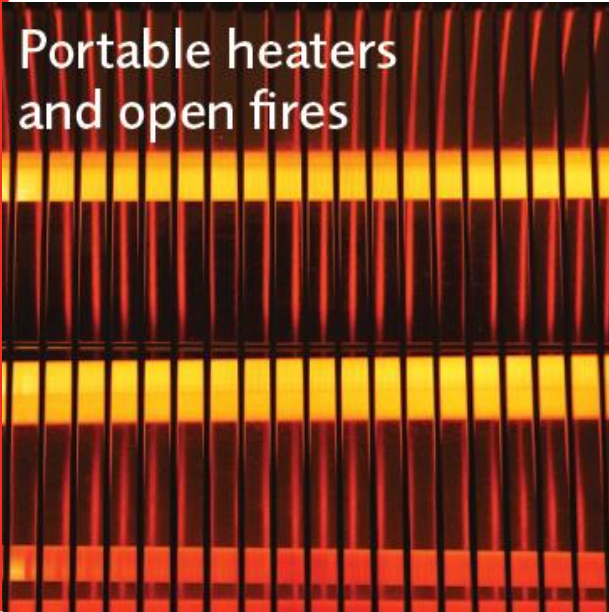
- Assists in recognition of fire hazards, including signs of previous fires and who is most at risk
- Can be completed by professionals and family members
- Encourages a call to action
- Provides details of who to contact for a **home fire safety visit**
- Provides a prompt to ensure the resident's **care plan is updated** and that **fire risk** is included

Common causes of fire

Smoking



Portable heaters and open fires



Cooking



Electrics



Candles and naked flames



HOARDING



Be aware: Some medical equipment can increase the speed and intensity of fire:

Emollient Creams



Airflow Mattress



Oxygen



Incontinence



What should I be looking out for?

Burn marks to floorboards



Scorch marks on cushions and furniture



These images are from real fires

An overloaded cable reel



A heater too close to the bed



These images are from real fires

A toaster and kettle placed on top of cooker

Cooking left unattended



What makes someone more vulnerable?

- Increased risk of fire
- Less able to react
- Reduced ability to escape

Telecare

- Telecare is available which can alert people to danger and summon assistance in an emergency
- Pendants and bracelets should be worn at all times
- Smoke detection should be linked to telecare equipment so help can be summoned even where the cared for person is unable to do so
- Siting of communication boxes needs to be considered

What are Home Fire Safety Visits?

- LFB will visit the resident in their home

and give advice on:

PREVENTION

DETECTION

ESCAPE

- Visits are **Free** of charge
- Can include the fitting of smoke alarms
- Specialist alarms for the sensory impaired are also available



•Book a visit here: [London Fire Brigade HFSV Request](#)

Fire Safety Workshop

Person Centred Risk Assessment Checklist

Case Study

- Complete the checklist
- Can you see how it could be used in your role?
- Are there any limitations?
- Who else could use it?

Betty – No smoke alarm



Fire damage in living room

- Betty aged 65 years old, lived alone
- Poor mobility, sleeping in her living room
- Monitored alarm system, use of pendant. (Found in drawer)
- She smoked and the fire was caused by a cigarette that she was smoking falling onto her duvet while she dozed on the sofa
- A month before the fire, Betty's smoke alarm was identified by carers as not working

Working together we CAN save lives



For further information go to: www.london-fire.gov.uk - [Fire Safety](#)

Download: [Fire Safety in the Home Booklet](#)