



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer Together

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Fire Safety in the Home for Carers

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service is committed to keeping people safe from the risks of fire in their home. We work closely with all our communities to provide advice and information about keeping safe. This booklet focuses on carers and how they can reduce the risks of fire in the homes of those they care for.

Research conducted by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service found that those who need support with daily tasks are most at risk of serious house fires and being unable to escape. Therefore, it is important that informal carers, like yourself, who are providing this care understand what you can do to prevent fires in the home for the people you care for.

We understand that providing care can be time consuming and can take its toll physically and emotionally at times, so we have also included information about support available to carers.

Watch the video



Main Fire Risks in the Home



Kitchen

Keep cooking appliances clean and tidy and **never leave unattended** when in use.

Use timers or smart devices where possible and **avoid overloading** plug sockets.



Living & Dining

Keep heating appliances **well-ventilated** and switch them off before going to bed or leaving the property.

Do not leave candles unattended and avoid charging appliances like mobility scooters overnight.



Bedroom

Encourage smoking outside where possible, especially if the individual uses an air mattress, emollient creams (prescribed moisturiser) or home oxygen, and always **have an ashtray** nearby.

Ensure extension cables are **plugged directly into wall sockets**.

Other Risk Factors



Mobility

Poor or no mobility can hinder or prevent escaping from a fire. Follow our escape plans detailed below for more information on what to do if there is a fire.

Cognitive Impairment

If the person you care for has cognitive difficulties, such as Dementia or Alzheimer's, they may not be able to recognise the dangers of a fire or respond appropriately to an alarm. This could mean that a fire is not noticed or acted upon in time. Arranging a Safe and Well check can help identify if this is a concern and provide advice about equipment or measures that could assist in keeping them safe.

What can I do?

- Keep all escape routes, including doorways, corridors and stairwells, **clear**.
- Turn **off** all non-essential electrical appliances, such as cookers and heaters.
- **Shut** all internal doors to prevent fire and smoke spread.
- Make sure you and the cared for individual always have access to a **phone**.
- **Test** the smoke alarms, heat alarm and carbon monoxide alarms once a week.



How can I help make the home safer?



Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of the property.



Install a carbon monoxide alarm near any gas fires, boilers, or open fireplaces.



Consider fitting a heat alarm in the kitchen if you feel one is required.



Consider having a community alarm pendant system installed if you feel it is appropriate.

What should I do in the event of a fire?



Assist all occupants to **evacuate** out of the nearest and safety escape route, move away from the building, then **call 999**.



If unable to evacuate, get into a room as **far away** from the fire as possible, **shut and block the door** to prevent smoke spread, open the **windows**, then **call 999**.

Who can I call if I need help?

If there's an emergency, always call 999.

Home Fire Safety Check

You can complete an online home fire safety check at safelincs.co.uk/hfsc

You can use this tool for your own home or to support family, friends, and those in your care.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

To organise a home fire safety visit or get more information about fire safety in the home, you can call Derbyshire FRS on **01773 305305** or visit derbys-fire.gov.uk

Providing Care

For support or information about being a carer or providing care, contact the Derbyshire Carers Association for those living in Derbyshire County on **01773 833833**, or for those living in Derby City on **01332 228777**.