

# A GUIDE TO FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

## Fire Facts

In the UK annually there are approximately 500 fire related deaths. The majority of these occur within the home between 12am and 6am when people are asleep.

An estimated 30% of the smoke alarms in the UK are inoperable due to missing, flat or disconnected batteries.

You only have minutes to escape a fire - every second counts. Smoke alarms give you advance warning of fire, which results in giving you more time to react. Having a working smoke alarm has been associated with lower casualty rates and reduced damage to homes following a fire. With a working smoke alarm, you are four times more likely to survive a fire.

## How to plan for the event of a fire

- Plan your escape.
- Fires happen when you least expect them and you will only have a short time to take action.
- Think about how you would get out of your home if the normal way is blocked.
- Keep all escape routes clear of rubbish or bulky items at all times.
- Tell everyone in the house where the door and window keys are kept.

## Some Fire Safety Dos and Don'ts

### Please do...



- Test smoke alarms weekly.
- Replace the batteries of smoke alarms when needed or if there are problems with your mains powered smoke alarm contact us on 0115 916 6066.
- Plan your escape route.
- Tell the Fire Authority of anybody in your home who may not be able to escape in the event of a fire, for example, because of a disability.

### Please do not...



- Obstruct any escape routes from your home with rubbish or bulky items.

# Fire Safety in your home



- Fit a smoke alarm and test it
- Fit at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home



- Take extra care cooking if you are tired or have been drinking
- Never leave pans unattended when cooking



- Never smoke in bed
- Never smoke in an armchair if you think you may fall asleep
- Do not leave a lit cigarette, pipe or candle unattended
- Use deep ashtrays so that cigarettes cannot roll out, and do not throw hot ash into the bin

## If a pan does catch fire:

- Don't try to throw water on it - it will make it worse
- Turn off the heat if you can do safely. If in any doubt, leave the room, close the door, shout to warn others to get out and call 999.



- Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children



- Close all doors as this helps to prevent fire spreading
- Switch off and unplug electrical appliances except those that are meant to stay on, like the fridge
- Check your cooker and heaters are turned off
- Keep doors and window keys where everyone you live with can find



- Sit at least three feet away from heaters. Never put a heater near clothes or furniture
- Don't overload electrical sockets