

OFFICIAL

Community Safety Flash



Topic: - Advice to our Carers

The help and advice you need to keep vulnerable people safe

Whether you help a loved one maintain their independence or spend your working days caring for others, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are here to support you.

Why it matters

A third of the people that die in fires every year are looked after by a carer, whether that is a family member, friend or a professional carer. We believe that by working together, we can reduce fire deaths and injuries of vulnerable people.



Who May be at Risk

People who need extra consideration

Older people, people with disabilities, people with visual and hearing impairments, and people who are vulnerable for other reasons all need careful consideration when it comes to fire safety. There are 4 main reasons why:

They may not be able to respond to a fire quickly.

They may not be able to escape a fire.

They may be more at risk due to lifestyle factors.

They may use healthcare equipment such as oxygen or emollient creams that are flammable.

So, what do you need to know to give the best possible care?

Be aware of the risks

Know what you need to do

Take action

Know where to go for help



OFFICIAL

Community Safety Flash



What to Consider

Is there an increased risk of Fire?

There are some behaviours that make a person more at risk of a fire. What to look out for:

- **Check** – Smoking are there signs of unsafe use of smoking or vaping materials (e.g. smoking in bed, unsafe disposal of cigarettes, burn or scorch marks on clothing, flooring or furniture)
- **Ensure** no other material e.g. paper, latex gloves, medical equipment is disposed of in the smoking bin

If they have had a sprinkler fitted and they are bed bound IS the bed sited under the sprinkler?

- **Check** - Emollient Creams – Do they use lotions, creams or gels to prevent dry skin
- **Check** – Do they use an air pressure mattress or oxygen cylinders
- **Check** – Are there any heaters, where are they sited e.g. placed too close to materials that could catch fire including furniture
- **Check** - Unsafe cooking practices e.g. cooking left unattended
- **Check** - Overloaded electrical sockets/adaptors or extension leads
- **Check** – Are there any obvious signs of damaged or faulty wiring
- **Check** – Do they use an electric blanket
- **Check** – Have there been any previous fires or signs of near misses
- **Check** – Is there signs of any unsafe use of candles/tealights e.g. too close to curtains or items that may catch fire, within reach of pets or children
- **Check** – Do they have working smoke alarms

Other Factors

- Response – reduced ability to react to a fire or a smoke alarm without help
- Mobility – could they escape from a fire without help
- Hoarding Disorder – Sometime people like to collect and hoard things leading to an increased risk to fire. Is there escape route kept clear

Get out, Stay Out and Dial 999

For more Safety Information Please Contact your local Prevent Team

Please give us a call and have a chat with your Community Safety Officers. Service is completely confidential.
01785 898719 or email: - wsdgpventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

In the event of an emergency get out, stay out and dial 999

