

WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T ESCAPE A FIRE

1. If a fire starts and there is no way out, get everyone in the house into one room, with a window that opens and shut the door
2. Call **999** and ask for the fire service
3. Put bedding or clothing around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke
4. Open the window and call for help. Wait at the window breathing fresh air until the fire service arrive
5. If smoke enters the room, stay low to the floor where it's easier to breathe

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF A WINDOW

1. If you are on the ground floor, you may be able to escape through a window. Only do this above ground floor if you are in immediate danger
2. To break a window, use a heavy object to smash the glass in the bottom corner, then knock out the rest of the glass
3. Cover jagged edges with towels or blankets and drop cushions or bedding to the ground to break your fall
4. Sit on the window sill, then lower yourself to full arms length before dropping

SMOKE ALARM TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

- Test your smoke alarms weekly by pressing the button until it sounds. If it doesn't sound, you need to replace the battery
- If your smoke alarm starts to beep on a regular basis, you need to change the battery immediately
- If you are experiencing problems with smoke alarms which we have fitted, you may call us for advice on **0114 253 2314** (11am to 4pm)



REGISTERING APPLIANCES

You should register larger electrical appliances and kitchen white goods for updates, in case they are recalled for safety reasons in the future. To do so, visit www.registermyappliance.org.uk

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on staying safe in your home visit www.syfire.gov.uk
or www.facebook.com/southyorkshirefire
Or you can call us for advice on **0114 253 2314** (office hours only).

Home Safety Check: Your visit, your advice

Please keep this booklet somewhere safe, so you can look at it again when you need to.



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**

DETECTION

Smoke Alarms

1

- Working smoke alarms give an early warning to a fire in your home, giving you and your family vital extra minutes to take action and escape
- You should have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home. They can be fitted using screws or bonding adhesive and should be placed on the ceiling, ideally in the centre of the room
- Keep the alarm working by giving it a dust at least twice a year and change the battery each year, unless your alarm is fitted with a long-life, 10 year battery
- Test your smoke alarms weekly - press the 'test' button until it beeps
- Consider fitting heat alarms in kitchens. These give an early warning of fires in the kitchen, but won't go off as a result of burnt cooking in the same way that smoke alarms do

Top tip



Fit smoke alarms

HAZARD

Kitchen Hazards

2

- **Prepare:** keep electrical leads, cardboard and fabrics well away from the hob and keep ovens, hobs and grills clean from grease and crumbs
- **Watch:** keep an eye on cooking at all times and never, ever leave it unattended
- **Switch:** switch off cooking appliances when you've finished cooking and before you go to bed

Top tip



Keep out of reach

HAZARD

Hot Oil Pans

3

- Hot oil pans cause more deaths in house fires than anything else in the home. Oven chips or thermostat controlled fryers are much safer
- If you do use a hot oil pan, don't fill it more than one-third full of fat or oil and never leave it unattended
- If a chip or fat pan does catch fire, don't put water on it. Get out, stay out and call 999

Top tip



Take care with hot oil

HAZARD

Electrical Hazards

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- Don't overload sockets - try to use one plug per socket and don't plug an adaptor into another adaptor
- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating
- Look out for signs of dangerous or loose wiring, such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets and fuses that blow
- High powered appliances, such as washing machines, should have a single plug to themselves and check fuse ratings as normally extension leads only take a maximum of 13 amps
- If you use an electric blanket, check it regularly and always refer to the manufacturers guidelines regarding storage when not in use. Never use a hot water bottle in the same bed as an electric blanket, even if its switched off. Unplug it before you go to bed, unless it has a thermostatic all-night controlled setting
- Don't use cheap, fake chargers, which often don't meet safety standards and can easily cause fires



HAZARD

Young Children

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- Always keep matches and lighters away from young children
- Make sure youngsters know what to do if they find a fire - to tell an adult right away and not to run away or hide from danger
- Talk through the family fire escape plan, so your children know what to do if a fire starts in the home



HAZARD

Bins & Rubbish

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- Put your wheelie bin out early on the morning of collection, rather than the night before
- Bring in your bin as soon as possible after collection
- Help your neighbours and bring their bin in for them if needed
- Store your bin away from your house, but within the boundary of your property
- If you have information about people starting fires in your area, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**



HAZARD

Smoking & Candles

5

- If you smoke, don't light up if you need to lie down. You could easily fall asleep, setting the bed or couch on fire
- Dispose of ash and smoking materials properly in a suitable bin - metal ones are best
- Use proper ashtrays and pour water over hot ash before disposal
- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Keep candles and incense away from anything flammable, things like curtains
- Keep tealights in a proper holder and never put them on plastic surfaces, like TV tops and baths



ACTION

Fire Action Plan

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- If you do discover a fire in your home, get out, stay out and call 999
- Choose the best escape route – usually your normal way in and out of your home
- If the first route is blocked, think of a second one, and keep those escape routes clear at all times
- Make sure everyone knows where to find door and window keys so they can get to them quickly in the event of a fire



HAZARD

Heaters & Fires

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- Try to secure heaters to a wall to stop them falling over, keep space clear around them and don't trail wires across the floor
- Keep them clear from curtains and furniture and never use them to dry clothes
- Always use a fireguard with open fires to stop flying embers
- Get your chimney swept, at least once a year
- Never store logs up against wood burning stoves
- If using wheat bags, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Don't overheat them and don't use them as bed warmers



ACTION

Bedtime Routine

10

- Most fire deaths happen at night, so take the time to check your home before you go to bed
- Check your escape routes are clear of obstacles and keys are kept where you and your family can find them on your escape route
- Switch off cookers, washing machines, heaters, laptops and other electrical appliances, unless they are meant to be left on, like fridges and freezers
- Make sure candles are put out - never leave a lit candle unattended
- Close internal doors, especially downstairs. If a fire does start, this stops it from spreading as fast
- If you have a mobile phone, take it to bed with you. You can use this to call 999 in an emergency

