

Seven Minute briefing , Fire safety in the Home .

Checklist for Person-Centred Fire Risk Assessment



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

1. Does the individual have an increased fire risk?

- Yes** If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit
- No** Skip to next question
- Smoking – with signs of unsafe use of smoking or vaping materials (e.g. smoking in bed).
 - Use of emollient creams that are petroleum or paraffin based.
 - Air pressure mattress or oxygen cylinders are used.
 - Unsafe use of portable heaters (e.g. placed too close to materials that could catch fire).
 - Unsafe cooking practices (e.g. cooking left unattended).
 - Overloaded electrical sockets/adaptors or extension leads.
 - Faulty or damaged wiring.
 - Electric blankets used.
 - Previous fires or near misses, burns or scorch marks on carpets and furniture.
 - Unsafe candle/tea light use (e.g. left too close to curtains or other items that could catch fire or within easy reach of children or pets).
 - Other (please specify): _____

2. Would the individual be less able to react to an alarm or fire?

- Yes** If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit
- No** Skip to next question
- Mental health issues (e.g. dementia, anxiety or depression).
 - Cognitive or decision making difficulties.
 - Alcohol dependency or misuse of drugs.
 - Sensory impairments (e.g. hard of hearing or sight loss).
 - Other (please specify): _____

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

- Yes** If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit
- No** Skip to next question
- Have restricted mobility, are frail or have a history of falls.
 - Are blind or have impaired vision.
 - Lacks capacity to understand what to do in the event of a fire.
 - Is a hoarder, or there are cluttered or blocked escape routes.
 - Are bed or chairbound.
 - Internal doors are left open at night.
 - Would be unable to unlock front door to escape.
 - Other (please specify): _____

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4. Are there any smoke or heat alarms fitted within the individual's home?

Yes

If yes, please specify which rooms have them fitted:

No

5. Has a carbon monoxide alarm been fitted anywhere that gas or solid fuels are used?

Yes

If yes, please specify which rooms have them fitted:

No

What to do next

If there are any questions in sections 1 – 3 that have been answered 'Yes', or you have identified that there are no smoke or heat alarms fitted, or they are broken or poorly sited, this suggests there is a risk from fire. Immediate actions are required to ensure agreed safety measures are in place:

- If you are employed by a company or organisation, return this checklist to your manager for a full Person-Centred Risk Assessment to be conducted where necessary.
 - Inform the resident or other family members of the risks identified, if you are certain they will understand.
 - Contact the local fire service to arrange for a home fire safety visit
 - If a care plan exists, all actions taken should be noted in that plan.
- In addition, you or your manager may also consider:
- Referral to Adult Social Care teams where a serious risk has been identified.
 - Informing the housing provider that there is an increased risk of fire to the individual.

Fire safety in the home

Home fire safety visits are provided by most fire services and are usually free. Trained persons will visit the property, carry out an inspection and offer fire safety advice. Where necessary they can also install free smoke alarms.

A 'Fire Safety in the Home' booklet is available from London Fire Brigade and can be downloaded from our website. Some basic fire safety advice has also been provided below.

Prevention

- It is safer not to smoke; but anyone who does should try to smoke outside and always make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
- Never smoke in bed, or anywhere else, if there's a chance of falling asleep.
- Use fire-safe ashtrays and fire-retardant bedding, nightwear and throws.
- Ensure paraffin based emollient creams are replaced with non-flammable alternatives.
- Candles, tea lights and incense burners should only be placed in stable, heat-resistant holders. Keep these items or any other type of naked flame well away from curtains, furniture and clothes.
- Sit at least one metre away from heaters and keep them well away from anything that can catch alight.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.
- Close all doors at night as this helps to prevent fire and smoke spreading.
- Switch off and unplug electrical items such as TVs and avoid charging devices like mobile phones whilst asleep.

Early warning and detection of a fire is essential

- As a minimum, fit at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home and in any room where a fire could start. The ideal position for these are usually in rooms that are used the most, in hallways and anywhere electrical equipment is left switched on.
- Fitting multiple linked smoke alarms, that all activate together, is the best way to be alerted in the event of a fire. For some, the provision of a Telecare monitoring system may also be beneficial.
- Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape – for example; strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing.
- Remember to test all alarms monthly.

Escape

- Make sure escape routes are kept clear of anything that may slow down or block exit routes.
- Ensure security gates can be easily opened from the inside without the need for a key. Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.
- Mobility aids and any methods of calling for help should always be kept close to hand (e.g. mobile phone, link alarm/pendant).