



South Yorkshire  
FIRE & RESCUE

# Home Safety Check

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

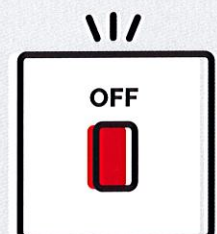
## 1 Smoke Alarms

- 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
- 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



## 2 Kitchen Hazards

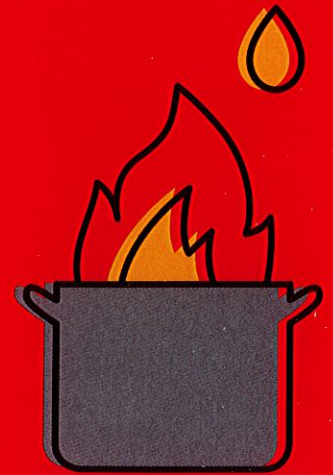
- **Prepare:** keep electrical leads, cardboard and fabrics well away from the hob and keep ovens, hobs and grills clean from grease and crumbs
- **Watch:** keep an eye on cooking at all times and never leave it unattended
- **Switch:** switch off cooking appliances when you've finished cooking and before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





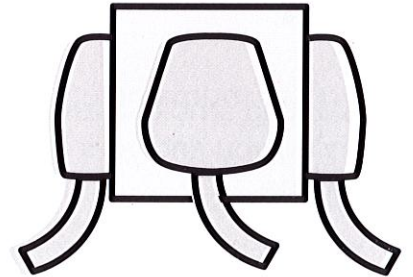
## Hot Oil Pans

- 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



## Electrical Hazards

- Don't overload sockets- try to use one plug per socket and don't plug an adaptor into another adaptor
- 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 be plugged into a single socket. Check fuse ratings of appliances. Normal extension leads only take a maximum of 13 amps
- If you use an electric blanket check it regularly and roll up or store flat, don't fold. Never use a hot water bottle in the same bed as an electric blanket, even if it is switched off. Unplug it before you go to bed, unless it has a thermostat controlled all-night setting



## Smoking & Candles

- 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 or even your clothes. If your clothes are on fire then stop, drop and roll
- Use proper ashtrays and pour water over hot ash before disposal in a suitable bin – metal ones are best
- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Keep candles away from anything flammable, things like curtains
- Keep tea-lights in a proper holder and never put them on plastic surfaces, like TV tops and baths





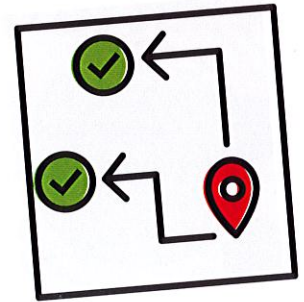
## Heaters & Fires

- If using electric heaters keep the space clear around them and don't trail wires across the floor
- Keep them away 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
- It is important to have a working audible CO detector



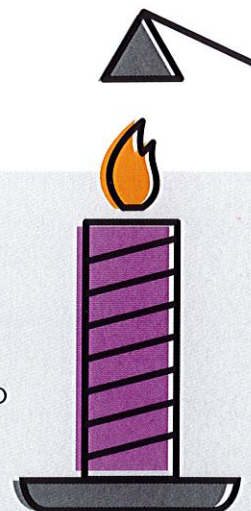
## Fire Action Plan

- If you discover a fire in your home, get out, stay out and call 999. Do not go back inside to get pets
- 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 to the whole family about choosing the best escape route if a fire should start in your home – 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 that door and window keys are available on your escape route and that everyone knows where to find them



## Bedtime Routine

- 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
- 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
- Don't charge any electrical items such as mobile phones overnight





## Bins & Rubbish

- 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



## What to do if you can't escape a fire

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Call 999 and ask for the fire service
- ✓ Put bedding or clothing around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke
- ✓ Open the window and shout 'Fire, Help'. Wait at the window breathing fresh air until the fire service arrive
- ✓ If smoke enters the room, stay low to the floor where it's easier to breathe

### Other services

If you have agreed to be referred for other services which may benefit you and you would like more information, ring 0114 253 2314.

For more information on staying safe in your home visit [www.syfire.gov.uk](http://www.syfire.gov.uk).

### Notes



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