



HEREFORD & WORCESTER  
**HWFR**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



**PREVENTION**

# Fire Safety in the Home

## Home Fire Safety Visit Referral

### Awareness Session



# Aims & Objectives..



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- Aim

That all practitioners and professionals will be aware of how to identify, assess and promote the safety and wellbeing of their service users at risk of a fire, fire death or serious injury.

- Objectives

To clearly recognise the individuals that are at risk of harm due to fire.

To identify relevant hazards, risks, traits and factors within the home that increase the likelihood and severity of an emergency.

Recognise your role in the prevention of fires by referring vulnerable members of the community to HWFRS for a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV)



# Your Prevention team ...



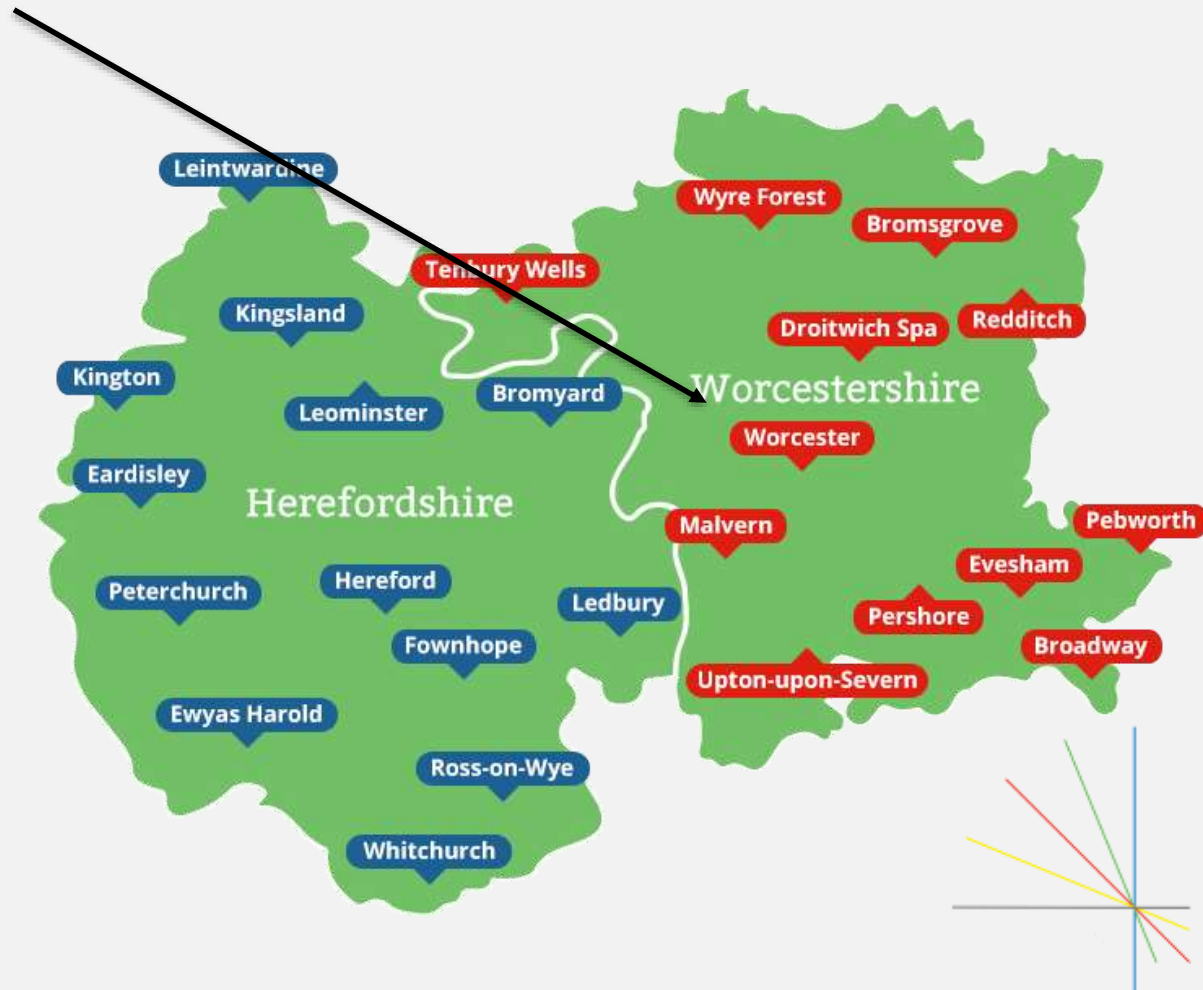
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Prevention Team based at  
Worcester Fire Station

2 Signposting and  
Safeguarding Leads covering  
both counties

3 Prevention Engagement  
Officers (PEO's) based  
North/South and West  
responsible for partnership  
working

4 Prevention Technicians  
responsible for completing  
HFSV's along with  
Wholetime crews...



# Why Seconds Count ...



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- How many of you have working smoke alarms?
- When did you last test them?
- How quickly can a fire develop?
- Are you sure they work?

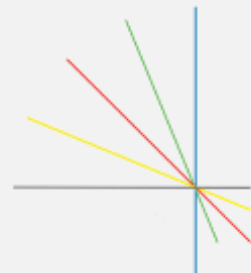


# Why seconds count ...



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- Fire spreading video



# Who is the most at risk?



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Couple A: Doug recently discharged from hospital. Doris, his wife, is living with dementia.

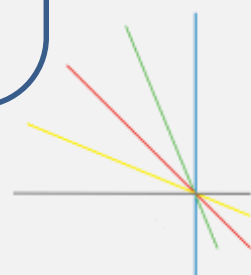
Person B: Teenager who lives with parents. HFSV declined.

**All of these people have tragically lost their lives in house fires in**

Couple C: Born under 60, previous incidents near address but no direct intervention. Unsure if alarms fitted

Person D: Heavy smoker, poor mobility. Several visits by FRS for home safety visits. Working Alarms in property

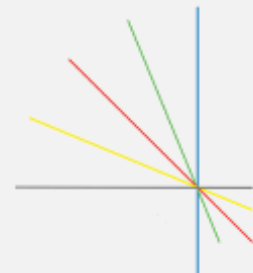
**Herefordshire and Worcestershire**



# Vulnerability Factors?



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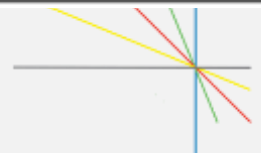
# Personal Risk



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Personal Risk

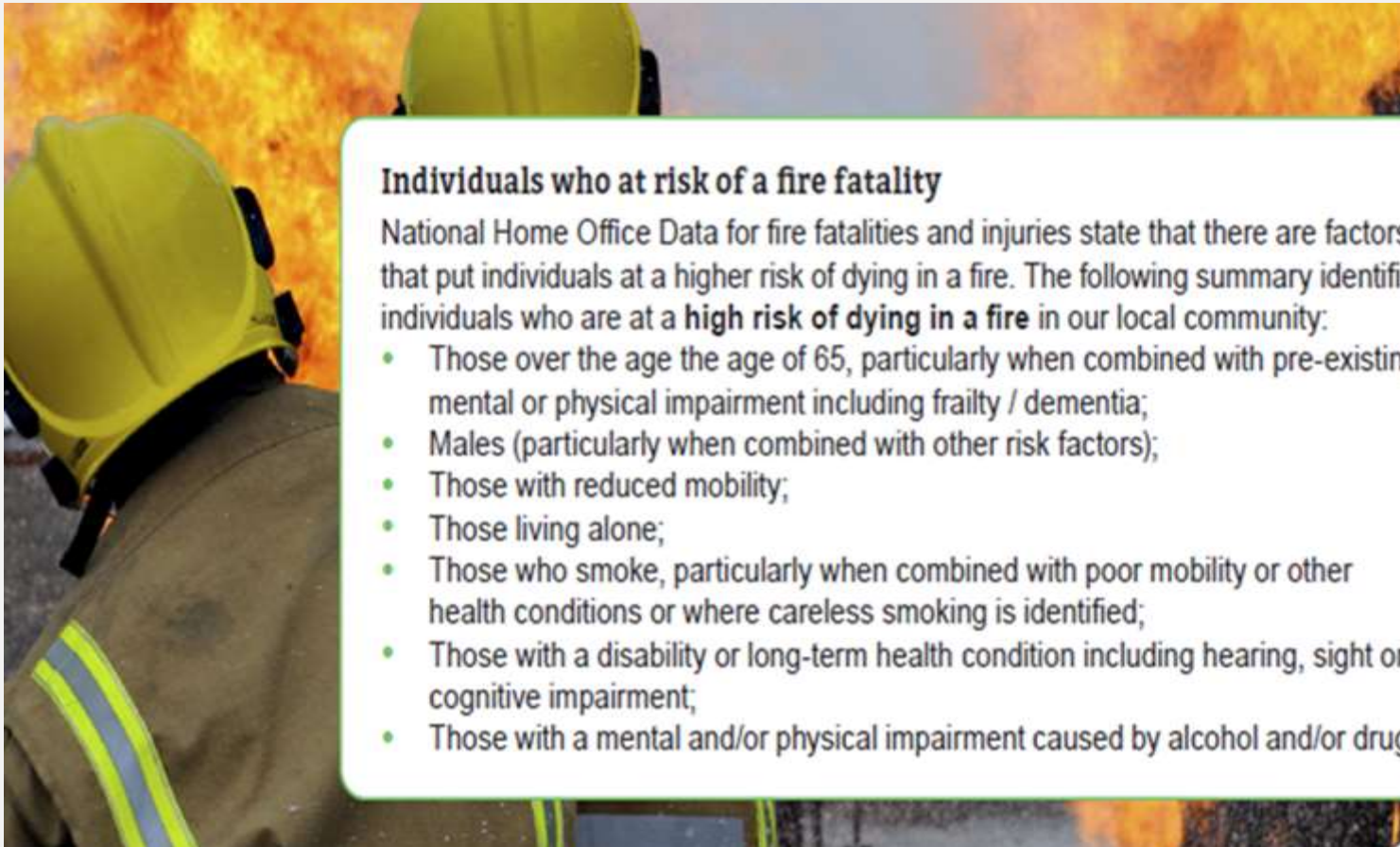




# Vulnerability Factors



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## Individuals who at risk of a fire fatality

National Home Office Data for fire fatalities and injuries state that there are factors that put individuals at a higher risk of dying in a fire. The following summary identifies individuals who are at a **high risk of dying in a fire** in our local community:

- Those over the age the age of 65, particularly when combined with pre-existing mental or physical impairment including frailty / dementia;
- Males (particularly when combined with other risk factors);
- Those with reduced mobility;
- Those living alone;
- Those who smoke, particularly when combined with poor mobility or other health conditions or where careless smoking is identified;
- Those with a disability or long-term health condition including hearing, sight or cognitive impairment;
- Those with a mental and/or physical impairment caused by alcohol and/or drugs.



# Vulnerability Factors



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## Individuals who are at risk of having a fire or being injured in a fire

This, layered with data from other datasets, provides the following summary of those at a **high risk of having a fire** in our local community:

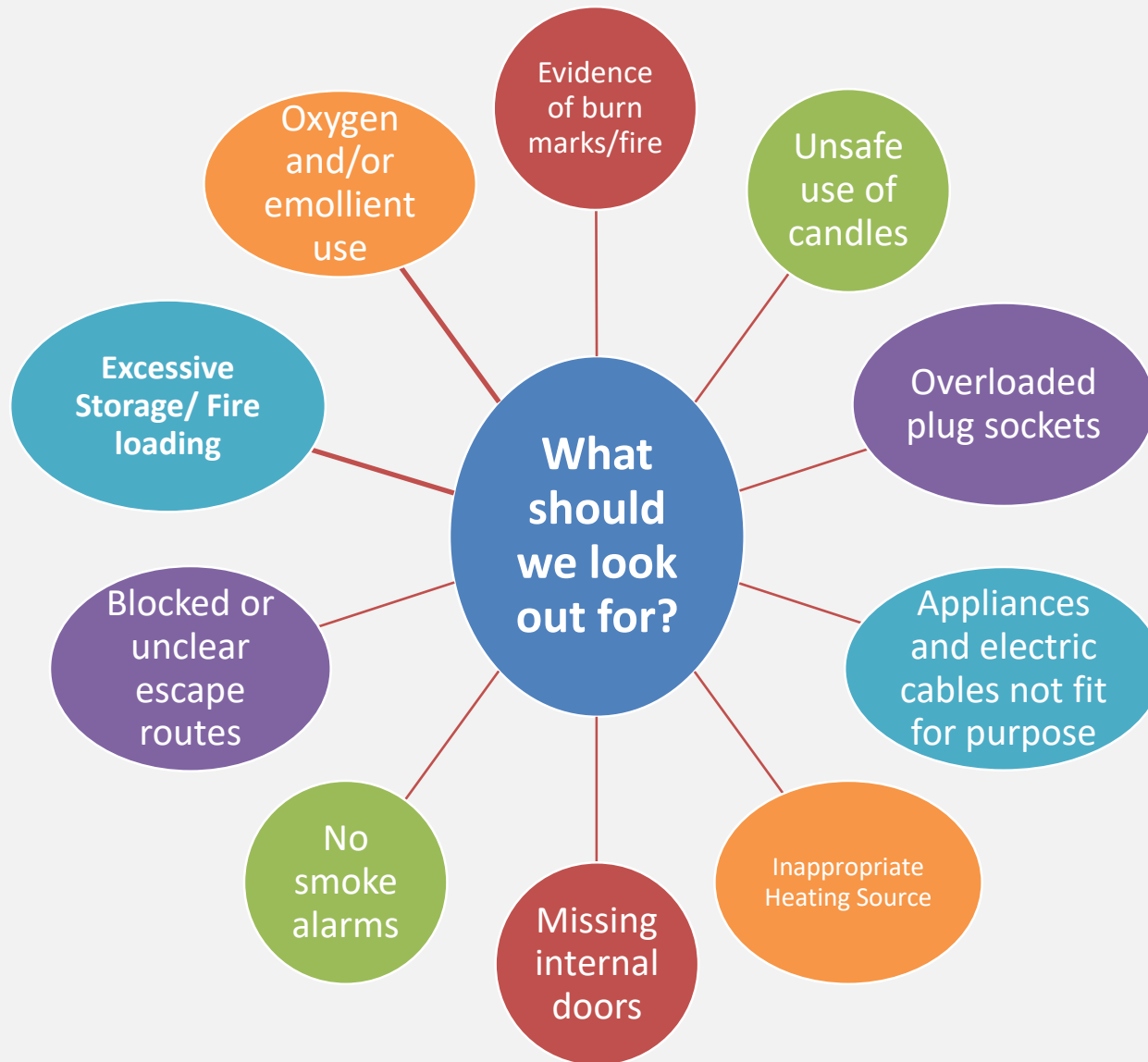
- Those aged between 18-64 years of age – HWFRS historical incident data shows the age group 55-64 as having the highest proportion of fires;
- Those living in houses and flats;
- Those living alone;
- Households / individuals with low socio-economic status such as deprivation or those living in a non-owned property or mobile home;
- Households where there are children under the age of 5 or single parent families when combined with any of the above factors;
- Those who have had a previous fire.



# Recognising the risk ...



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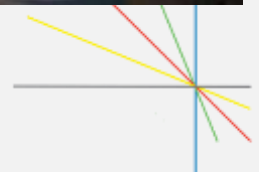




# Environmental Risk



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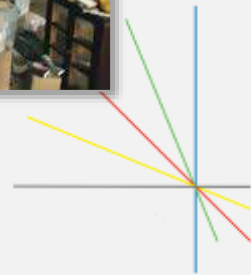


# Hoarding...



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- The NHS summarises the problem well: “A hoarding disorder is where someone acquires an excessive number of items and stores them in a chaotic manner. The items can be of little or no monetary value and usually result in unmanageable amounts of clutter”
- Not a life style choice
- High risk of significant harm or death
- Significant risk to neighbours and other agencies..

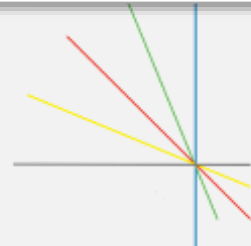


# Clutter image rating ...



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- The Clutter Image Rating is a tool that helps standardize definitions of clutter by showing a series of images depicting rooms in various stages of clutter
- This allows the professional to select the image on the scale that best corresponds with the state of the main rooms in the home
- In general, rooms that are rated as picture 6 or higher indicate a probable hoarding problem and a revisit programme will be implemented...





# Hoarding Fire Risk Considerations



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- Mobility Issues/ability to self evacuate?
- How many rooms/floors affected?
- Access/Egress compromised?
- Ignition source concerns? – eg smoking, concerns ref heating/electrics
- If there are additional vulnerabilities – eg cognitive/physical/sensory impairments, children living in the property?
- Information can be recorded with Fire Control to increase Pre Determined Attendance and alert crews in an emergency attendance



# Prevention ...



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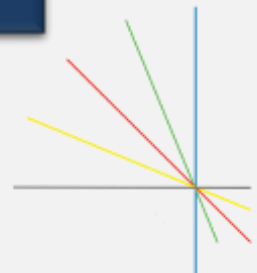
Smoke, Heat & CO Alarms



Hearing Impaired Equipment



Fire Retardant Bedding & Throws

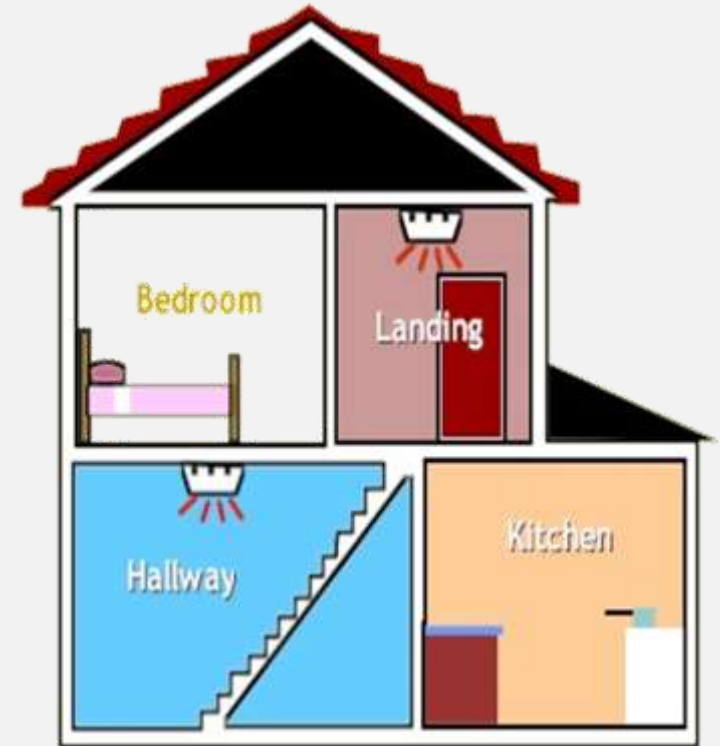


# Smoke, Heat & CO Alarms ...



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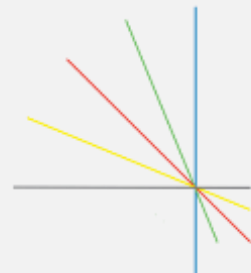
- Minimum of one smoke alarm on each floor situated within escape routes
- Smoke alarms NOT placed within or near to bathrooms/kitchens
- Heat alarms, within kitchen/open plan area – never within escape routes. For a heat alarm to activate, **FIRE** must be present
- CO alarms may be installed if there is evidence of old or poor heating appliances that have not been serviced...



# Smoke, Heat & CO Alarms...



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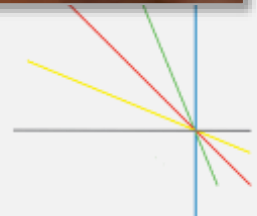


# Hearing Impaired equipment ...



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- For those that would not hear a standard smoke or CO alarm
- All alarms are interlinked
- Vibrating pad and flashing strobe to alert user to alarm activation
- Numerous pads and strobes can be linked in to the system
- Not designed to replace a monitored system such as Telecare...

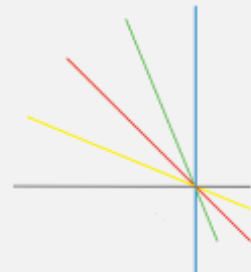


# Hearing impaired alarms ...



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- Hearing impaired alarms video





# Fire Retardant blankets ...



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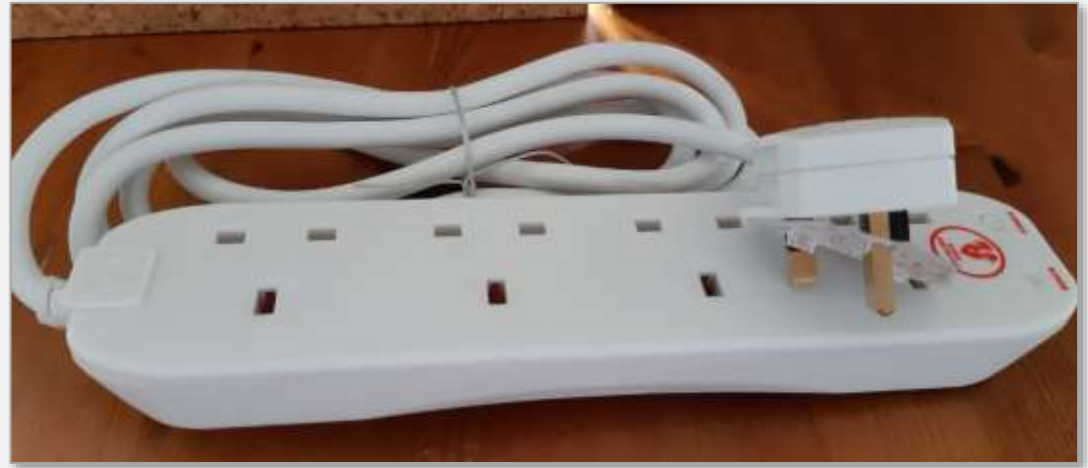
- Distributed on a need by need basis
- Designed to reduce the risk of a fire developing from dropped smoking materials
- For those with limited mobility where signs of burn marks from previous fires are evident
- For those that continue to smoke in bed despite advice especially if air flow mattresses or emollient cream are used



# We also provide when needed..



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- Oil filled electric radiators if there is no heating in a premise
- Strip adaptors to replace any unsafe equipment



# Reducing the risk - advice



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# Winter Warmth Packs



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**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

## COST OF LIVING

Steps to stay fire safe  
England

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# Arson and JFS interventions ...



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- External letter box/flaplock can be fitted
- Enhanced attendance from FRS with location of any “safe rooms” logged
- Joint visits can be arranged
- Juvenile Firesetters - targeted, age appropriate intervention by trained advisors exploring choices & consequences...







# Referral Process ...



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Professional Referrals can be made via email using the referral form or online using the QR code or website





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### Referral Form for HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT

Title	Last name	First name	Date of birth / Approx. age	M / F
Address		Telephone number (this number will be used to arrange an appointment)		Alternative name and telephone number if required to make appointment
Post code		NHS Number		First language
Is the property:		Are there any known risks to a lone HWFRS worker? Yes or no If yes, please detail		
Housing Association <input type="checkbox"/>				
Privately rented <input type="checkbox"/>				
Owner occupied <input type="checkbox"/>				
GP Name / Surgery				
Person completing form			Your signature	
Organisation you work for and what is your role?			Your phone number	Your email address
Consent: <small>I understand that the personal information I have provided will be used for a Home Fire Safety Visit. I confirm that I have explained to the occupier that information they have freely provided will be used for HWFRS to conduct a Home Fire Safety Check.</small>		Signature:		Date form completed
Details about the occupier (Please tick all that apply):				
Lives alone <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing impairment <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reduced mobility <input type="checkbox"/>	Sight impairment <input type="checkbox"/>			
Alcohol / Substance misuse <input type="checkbox"/>	Cognitive impairment <input type="checkbox"/>			
Smoker <input type="checkbox"/>	History of previous fires <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other risks (Please tick all that apply):		Any further information that you feel is important to this referral provide details:		
Are there any working smoke alarms <input type="checkbox"/>				
Burn marks on furniture / clothes <input type="checkbox"/>				
High level hoarding / clutter <input type="checkbox"/>				
Concerns with electrics <input type="checkbox"/>				
Concerns with gas appliances <input type="checkbox"/>				

Please send completed forms to: Prevention Department, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Worcester Fire Station, McKenzie Way, Worcester WR4 9GN  
Email: signposting@hwfire.org.uk or sign.posting@hwfire.sjcm.net Telephone: 0800 032 1155  
Information recorded about you will be held securely in-line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and only be used for the purpose of resolving your referral.

Complete your FREE online Home Fire Safety Check now!

[www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc)



For further information about a FREE Home Fire Safety Visit call us on

0800 032 1155

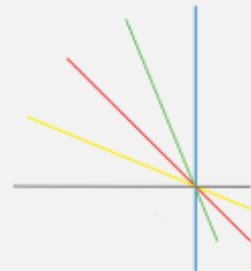


# Summary?



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“Working together, in partnership, to reduce the risk to those who are vulnerable, making every contact count whilst working together to save more lives...”



# Any Questions?



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Thank you.

