

Kildare Fire Service

Fire Safety Information



SAFETY AMONG THE ELDERLY

About 50 people die each year because of preventable fires in the home. Unfortunately, some elderly people can be particularly vulnerable. However, by taking some simple safety measures lives could be saved. Being prepared is crucial. Knowing exactly what to do should fire break out, will minimise your ability to deal with it.

THREE ESSENTIAL STEPS:

1. Look around your home-eliminate the fire hazards in your day-to-day domestic life.
2. Install a smoke detector to give you an early warning.
3. Decide on your fire evacuation plan-and practice it regularly.

1. ELIMINATING FIRE HAZARDS-

Most people think of their homes as a haven of safety. The truth is when it comes to fire a lot of houses and dwellings are far from safe. Using the chart below as a check-list, walk through your home with your family checking the following common-sense precautions. Do the check regularly.

2. SMOKE ALARMS-

Statistics show that more fires occur at night when people are asleep. When there is a fire, smoke won't wake people, it will actually put them into a deeper sleep. By installing smoke alarms you will have an early warning device that will give you valuable time

before you and dangerous smoke and fumes overcome your family.

- Two Smoke alarms, properly located, would suit the average home-you should only install smoke alarms manufactured to recognised standards.
- Make sure that all smoke alarms are properly installed and maintained. Test alarms and their batteries on regular basis.
- If a smoke alarm sounds, never assume it's a false alarm-always act immediately.

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FIRE SAFETY CHECK-LIST

SITTING ROOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make sure smokers take care with lighted cigarettes- hot ash can smoulder before hours before igniting. Use large, stable ashtrays. ➤ Make sure you have a spark guard placed in front of open fires before you retire for the night. Clean chimneys at least twice a year. Keep the area around the fireplace clear of newspapers, clothes or combustible material. Don't air or dry clothes in front of an open fire. ➤ Avoid overloading sockets-stick to one plug per socket. Switch off and unplug all appliances when not in use. If electrical leads and plugs are frayed, don't attempt electrical repairs yourself, call a qualified electrician. ➤ With portable heaters, check the instructions for proper use. Place them well clear of furniture and curtains. Remember, never move gas or oil heaters when in use.
KITCHEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most domestic fires start here. Keep a fire extinguisher or fire blanket in a handy place. ➤ Keep the cooker clean-grease is dangerous. Keep electrical flexes well clear of cooking rings and hobs. ➤ Take care when cooking. Keep saucepan handles turned in but not over cooker rings. Never fill a chip-pan more than one-third full. If your cooking oil catches fire, use a fire-blanket to put it out. Do not move the pan or use water to extinguish it. ➤ Use the cooker for cooking-not for drying clothes.
BEDROOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the most dangerous fire hazards in the home is smoking in the bed-it is a very high risk and should be completely banned. ➤ Use electric blankets sensibly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Check your blanket for wear or damage. When storing, Roll Them rather than Fold Them. ➤ Keep a torch or flashlight near you for Emergency light.
WORKSHOPS, UTILITY, STORAGE and GARAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Flammable materials such as Oil, Petrol, Paint, Adhesives, Insecticides and Chemicals should be stored outside in sealed metal containers. ➤ Avoid the build-up of newspapers or refuse in storage areas. They could be a fire danger.

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3. EVACUATION PLAN- *Practice It*

In most cases where fire breaks out, so too does panic! A rehearsed fire drill can make all the difference.

Fire Drill At A Glance:

- Together, plan two escape routes from each room.
- Practice the plan to perfection.
- Close all doors behind you as you leave.
- The stairs are your primary escape route-keep them clear.
- If clothes catch fire - Stop, Drop & Roll.
- Do not re-enter the house for any reason.
- Phone the fire brigade from a nearby phone outside.
- Decide on a meeting point outside the house near where the fire brigade is likely to arrive.

If you are prevented from leaving the house by smoke, heat or fire, close the room door and seal all cracks with sheets or clothing. Stay near the window and attract attention by waving or shouting for help. Always keep down on the floor where the air is cleaner and cooler.



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