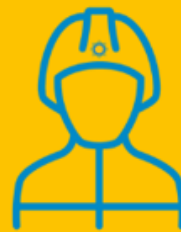
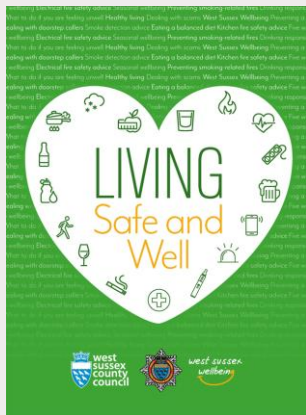


Fire Risk Awareness & Observation

Camilla O'Brennan
Fire & Road Safety Officer
Officer
(SAFEGUARDING & MULTI-AGENCY)

WM Beth Parry-Evans
Fire & Road Safety
(PREVENTION INSTRUCTOR)





PREVENTION – PROTECTION – SERVICE DELIVERY



How many 999 calls do Fire Service attend in West Sussex each year?



2024/25 emergency calls 8136

2024/25 fire incidents 1492

22 fire calls per day

What has been the biggest driver behind the reduction?

Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities 1981 - 2022

- National campaigns
- Local campaigns
- Legislation
- Technology
- Home Fire Safety Visits



[Additional Information](#)

© Statista 2024

[Show source](#)



Fatalities within West Sussex

- Over the last decade since 2016 - **14** West Sussex residents have tragically lost their lives in ADF.
- WSFRS carries out a case review for each person who has died in an accidental dwelling fire.
- We analyse the data to identify trends.
- However, in recent years we have seen a reduction in Fire Deaths in West Sussex.

The reduction could be attributed to a combination of the continued push to educate Social Care Staff and other professional practitioners, as well as more targeted support providing advice and guidance for vulnerable people and the people who care for them.

Fire risk is still here – National Data



2699 Fire related fatalities between 2014 –2024
These deaths are preventable. Most deaths from fire occur in people's homes.

39% Of all fatal fires in the UK involved people over 65.

19% Of the UK population are over the Age of 65.

1/3rd Of the people that die in fires every year are looked after by a Carer, whether that is a family member, friend or a professional Carer.

72,815

**PEOPLE ARE UNPAID CARERS
IN WEST SUSSEX**

(That's 8% of the West Sussex population)

AGE
GROUP

2%

4%

8%

21%

38%

27%

15 or Under

16 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 49

50 - 64

65+

18,559

carers reporting
**'NOT GOOD
HEALTH'**

19,082

**REGISTERED DISABLED
under the Equality Act**

With 31% (or 5,852) reporting that
their day-to-day activities are
limited a lot.



What is safe and well?

An opportunity for Fire service personnel to engage with their community and make a difference to people's lives through contact, promoting risk reduction and well being.



Safe Cooking Practises



Addressing faulty electrical equipment and overloading

Reducing Trips, Slips and Falls

Safe Smoking Practises



Testing/Installing Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Planning of Escape Routes

Health and Wellbeing

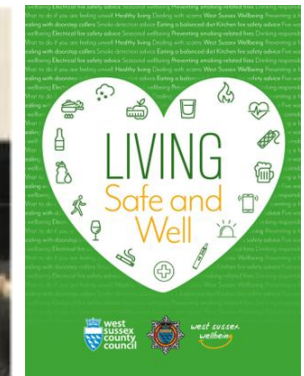
Sensory Impairment



CHANGING BEHAVIOURS

SEASONAL & EMERGING RISKS

Heater related fires typically start when bedding, blankets or clothes are placed too close.





What's not right in this scenario?



Essential Safe & Well Visit Information

Smoking

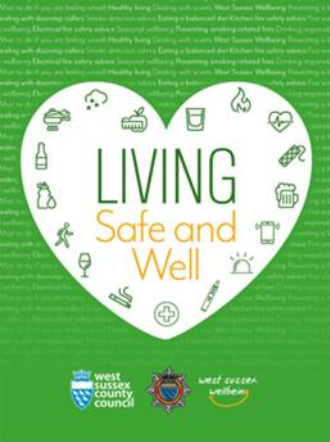
A high percentage of injuries and fire deaths are from fires caused by smoking.

Indicators of risk to fire associated with smoking include:-

- Burns on carpets, furniture, bedding and clothing
- Evidence of smoking in bed
- Carelessly discarded cigarettes or matches
- Overflowing ashtrays
- Lighters or matches within the reach of children



Smoking in armchairs, sofas and in bed is a large factor in fires started by cigarettes.



Medical Equipment & Prescriptions



Essential Safe & Well Visit Information

Emollients

Important and effective moisturising treatments

- Ointments, creams, lotions, gels, sprays
- Bath and shower products
- Paraffin, lanolin, oatmeal, mineral oils, fruit/nut/seed oils or butters (ie shea)
- Widely used to maintain the skin barrier, restore skin suppleness, prevent dry skin and itching and reduce the number of flare-ups in dry skin conditions (eg, eczema and psoriasis)
- Once applied to the skin, may be covered by a bandage
- Some dressings and bandages may come with product already on them (used to promote wound healing, including burns)



What can I use instead of Vaseline when on oxygen?
Petroleum-based products are combustible, making them a fire hazard, and shouldn't be used around oxygen. You can, however, use lip balms that are petroleum-free or water-based.



Size and nature of the risk (UK data)

- Risk is very rare given the extensive use of emollients, but can have devastating and fatal consequences
- Emollient involvement in fire incidents is anticipated to be under-recognised and under-reported

Population at risk and risk factors

The following factors were present in most cases:

- Age >60 years
- Using emollient therapy
 - Smoking
 - Reduced mobility
 - Bedbound



Additional factors: Use of an airflow mattress - oxygen therapy - Alcohol or medication

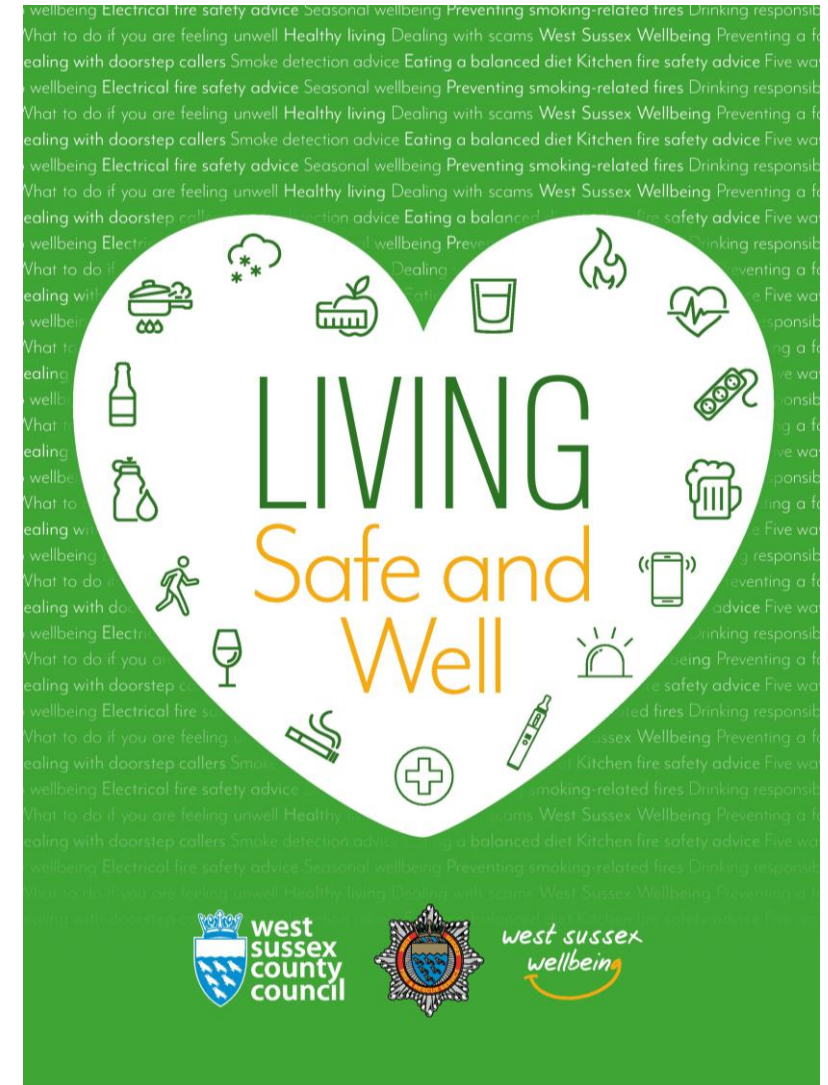


Anyone can make a Safe & Well Referral

Points of Concern – The 5 Key Qs

1. Is there a working smoke detector – not missing or broken?
2. Can the person remove themselves independently in the event of a fire?
3. Are the entrance & exit routes clear – not blocked or in disrepair?
4. Any environmental concerns?
 - Improvised cooking/heating/lighting/scorches/candles
 - Home Oxygen, Emollient Therapy, Air Flow Mattress
5. Does anyone in the household smoke or are there any risks from direct heat or naked flames?

CONSENT



SELECT Request a Visit Form



Search

Search

My account

Menu



West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

LAST UPDATED:
24 April 2026

Share this



Safe and Well Visit

Request a free safety visit for advice on

1. Overview

2. Eligibility

3.

4.



Search

Search

Request a visit

If you're concerned that your home may be at risk of fire, or you know someone who you think needs our help, you can request a Safe and Well Visit.

Request a safe and well referral.

Contact us to request a visit:
 safeandwell@westsussex.gov.uk
 [0345 8729 719](tel:0345 8729 719)
Additional information
Calls are charged at the standard geographic rate and will vary by provider. Lines are open 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday-Friday.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/home-fire-safety>

TEST? WORKING? HOW MANY?



Essential Safe & Well Visit Information

A minimum of **ONE** on each floor level fitted on the ceiling near the centre of the room

Avoid fitting directly outside bathrooms (steam/deodorants) & kitchens cooking fumes / toast

Not everyone is keen or able to give consent

“Well, I have my smoke alarm in place”

97% of people have 1x smoke detector

Only 47% of these activate in a fire scenario.



CONSENT FOR A Safe & Well Visit

FIRE RISK ACTION PLANS

MDT

RISK ENABLEMENT

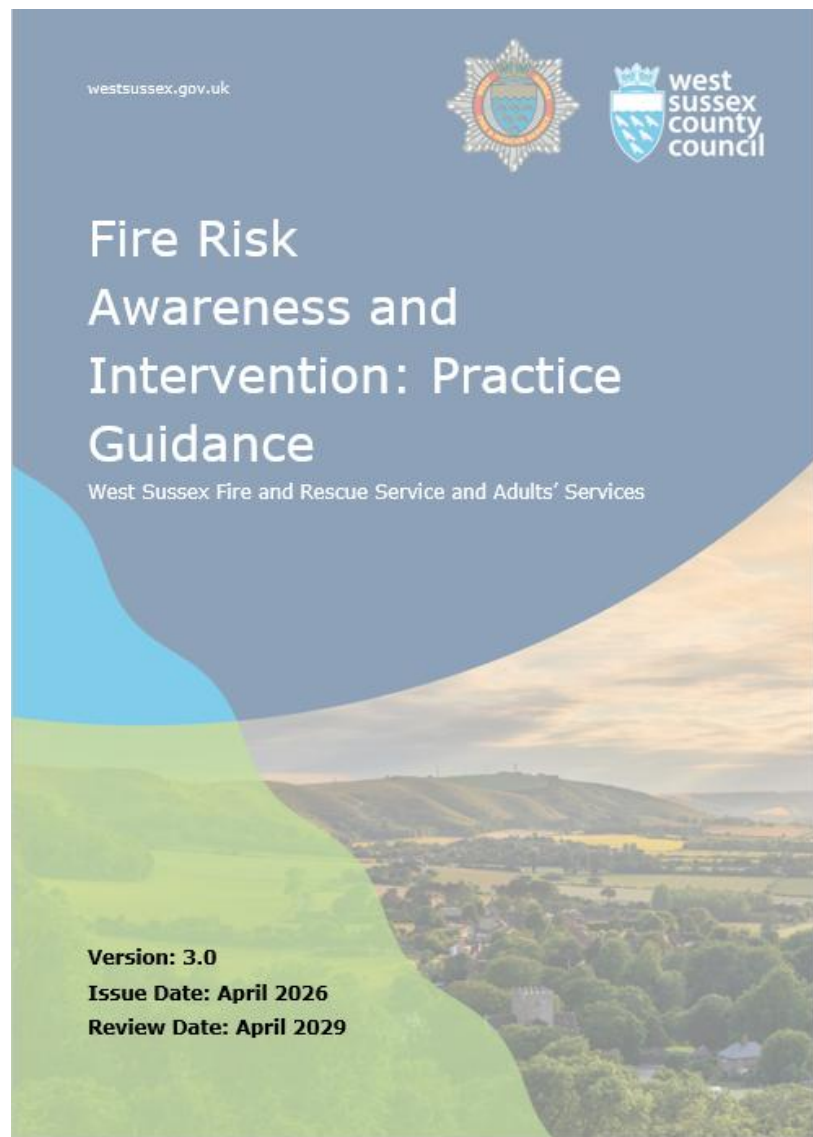
SHARED RISK





PERSON	BEHAVIOUR	ENVIRONMENT
Older Person	Careless Smoking Practices	No Smoke Alarm/Missing/Broken
Frailty	Alcohol or Substance Use	Living Alone
Poor Physical Health	Self-Neglect	Multiple Ignition Sources
Dementia	Unsafe, Unsanitary, Disrepair	Hoarding/Uninhabitable
Cognitive Impairment	Lack of Engagement	Oxygen/Emollient/Air Flow Mattress
Sensory Impairment	Suicidal Thoughts/Attempts	Inability to Raise Alarm
Unable to Self-Evacuate	Poor Cooking Practices	Evidence of Previous Fire

WSFRS Health & Social Care Fire Risk Awareness



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Fire Risk Awareness Observations in the Home		
1	Is there a working smoke alarm in the property?	
	Have the smoke alarms been tested and are working?	
	Are there working smoke detectors on each floor of the home?	
	If the person is a telecare customer, do they have a 'linked' smoke detector?	
	Does the person have an evacuation plan in the event of a fire in the home?	
2	Could the person leave their home unassisted?	
	Are there signs of alcohol use, misuse or substance misuse?	
	Does the person have a hearing or sensory impairment?	
	Does the person have any reduced mobility due to disability, or ill-health which is either temporary or more permanent?	
	Would the person's disabilities affect their ability to understand if a smoke detector sounded?	
	Does the person have any known mental health issues that could lead them to make an unsafe decision in the event of a fire?	
3	Are the entrances, thorough-fares and exits clear in this home?	
	Has the person made any lifestyle choices that could hamper the progress of a rescue if there was a fire	
	Can the person or a carer or emergency responder move around the home unhindered?	
	Are there any outstanding repairs which would hinder access or egress from the property for the person and emergency services	
	Are there any concerns for security meaning the doors are barricaded or bolted?	
	Does the person store and/or charge a mobility scooter in the property?	
4	Common Fire Risks around the home to consider	
	Kitchen safety	Are the oven and grill clean? Is cooking left unattended? Is the person frying food using hot oil or deep fat?
	Electrical safety	Are the plugs and sockets overloaded? Is there extensive use or daisy chain of extension leads? Are electrical cables being run under carpets? Do the electrical items look in good condition?
	Heating the home safely	are open fires or log burners adequately guarded? Are portable heaters stable and away sources of ignition such as papers, magazines, furniture and furnishings?
	Flames and ignition sources	Are items such as candles and incense sticks in suitable holders and away from flammable materials? Are lighters and matches in reach of children Is there evidence that a child may be playing with fire?

	Improvised cooking, lighting & heating	Is the cooker being used for additional heat?
		Is the cooker being used for drying clothes on nearby racks?
		Are paraffin heaters being used for cooking or heating?
		Are there light bulbs missing or not working – evidence of candles?
		Is there a previous history of a fire in the home or of a near miss where a small fire was extinguished and not reported?
5	Less common concerns with high risk of fire	
	Does the person have a smoke alarm in an outside space such as shed or garage which is used for activities?	
	Does the person have a quantity of flammable liquids in the home or shed close by? ie petrol, paint, cleaning fluids	
	Does the person have a quantity of flammable material stored in the home or shed close by ie rubber tyres, collecting material for re-cycling, camping gas etc	
6	Does the person smoke?	
	If the person smokes, where does the smoking take place? (Is it in bed/chair?)	
	What is the level of the smoker's mobility during the day and night?	
	How does the smoker manage their smoking materials?	
	Are there overflowing ashtrays, burn marks on clothing, chairs and/or carpets?)	
7	Additional risks related to medical equipment & treatment for smokers	
	Do they use medical oxygen?	
	Sleep on an airflow mattress?	
	Do they use emollient creams?	
	Are boxes of items such as incontinence pads stored near the person ie under the bed?	
	Does the person use medication to assist with sleeping, or where sleepiness is a side-effect of taking medication?	
8	Are there any safeguarding concerns or issues present such as self-neglect, domestic abuse, cuckooing, financial abuse, children in need plan etc?	
	Are MASH or MARRAC aware of this household?	
	Is there any known or suspected threat of arson?	
	Self-Neglect related to Housing concerns such as Hoarding or Diogenes– is there evidence of an unsuitable, unsanitary, or uninhabitable home environment or that there are signs that the person appears unable to cope in their current environment?	
Best Practice and Record Keeping		
Wellbeing Conversation & Care Act Assessment		
Risk Based Decision Making & Risk Enablement Plan		
Safe & Well Referral to West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service		



[Home](#) / [Fire & Rescue](#) / [Fire Service Multi-Agency Info Hub](#)

Fire Service Multi-Agency Info Hub



LIVING SAFE & WELL - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO TARGET RISK



West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) focus on targeting the most vulnerable people in the community who are at the highest risk of harm in the home. We seek to ensure access to our fire safety advice by promoting the prevention activity of the 'Safe and Well Visit'. These home fire safety visits are an effective way of improving safety within people's homes.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service personnel will carry out Safe & Well Visits, giving advice and fitting smoke alarms/equipment where appropriate. A Safe and Well Visit is not an inspection but a conversation, for which the person must give consent for a visit to be carried out. These conversations often lead to advice and signposting to connect with other community partners in housing, health, mental health, social care, community safety including blue light services, care and support agencies.

Working in partnership to deliver Safe and Well prevention activity in collaboration with other agencies, our partners can identify and refer individuals in their caseloads and patient lists, ensuring we can collaborate to **make every contact count** and provide advice and guidance on not only fire risk, but link with other

Who's Listening

Camilla O'Brennan

Multi-Agency Prevention Officer
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Email camilla.obrennan@westsussex.gov.uk



Beth Parry-Evans

Fire & Road Safety Prevention Instructor
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Email beth.parry-evans@westsussex.gov.uk



Ben Applin

Rural Engagement Officer
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Email benjamin.applin@westsussex.gov.uk



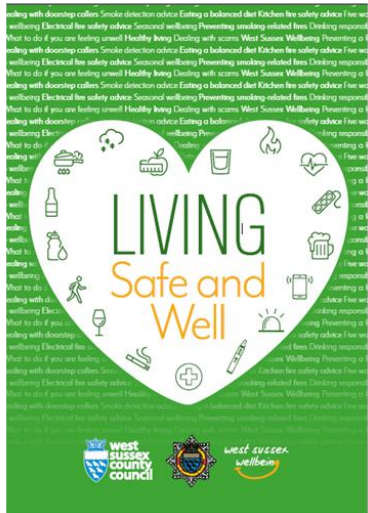
SAFE & WELL VISIT SLIDES / SOCIAL MEDIA IMAGES

Safe & Well Slides

Safe & Well Visit Topics

Seasonal Risks

Risk Data & Stats – Serious Fires



SAFE & WELL VISIT TOPICAL INFORMATION

Safe & Well Visit Topics

 [Safe and Well Visits.jpg \(103 KB\) \(jpg\)](#)

 [Safe and Well Visits \(1\).jpg \(116 KB\) \(jpg\)](#)

Safe & Well Slides & Social Media Images

TV Monitor Slides

1. Smoke Alarm on every floor
(2.69 MB) (jpg)

2. Electrical socket overload (342 KB) (jpg)

3. Get Out Stay Out Call 999-
Escape plans (392 KB) (jpg)

7. Smoke Alarm Test.png (9.37 MB) (png)

Seasonal Risks - Autumn

5. Chimney.png (5.4 MB) (png)

6. Halloween.png (3.69 MB) (png)

Seasonal Risks - Winter

4. Candles Unattended.png (6.6 MB) (png)

LEARNING AND EDUCATION

We have a range of talks and training sessions available to promote domestic home fire safety to customer-facing practitioners in the community. One of the following approaches may suit you as an individual or within your teams suit your busy schedules. If you would like to learn more about availability please contact us through frs.fireandroadsafety@westsussex.gov.uk and quote LIVING SAFE AND WELL LEARNING and let us know which session from the outlines below.



1. Safe & Well Visit 5Qs
2. Fire Risk Awareness Intervention Guidance
3. MAFRAT – Multi-Agency Fire Risk Awareness Session
4. Making a Quality Assured Referral

Dates for 2026: 16 September
& 19 November
Dates for 2027: 3 March
& 16 June

MAFRAT


MULTI-AGENCY FIRE RISK AWARENESS
Integrating home fire safety into your work in the community
Self-Neglect - DFG/Adaptations - Health
Environmental Health - Clutter Rating - Wellbeing
Speakers: Fire - Health - Housing- Social Care



**Free training sessions for professionals
working with customers at risk in their homes**
Email frs.fireandroadsafety@westsussex.gov.uk to book ref: MAFRAT.

LEARNING AND EDUCATION Session Documents

-  [Mafrat 2025-26.PNG \(403 KB\) \(PNG\)](#)
-  [Invitation narrative for Multi-Agency Fire Risk Awareness Training email request.docx \(350 KB\) \(docx\)](#)
-  [West Sussex MAFRAT for PARTNERS.docx \(716 KB\) \(docx\)](#)

Emerging Risks 2025

Risk Data & Stats

HAIR DRYERS & STRAIGHTENERS

- Significant causes of residential fires and burn injuries
- High risks associated with leaving these devices on, unattended, or near flammable materials.
- Exceeding 235°C
- Hotter than a deep fat fryer.
- 40 minutes to cool

Key Findings on Hair Dryer Safety (2022–2026):

- **Counterfeit Products:** such as Fake Dyson hair dryers, have been identified as fire hazards.
- **Rising Incidence:** 37% increase in fires started by hair dryers in the 2019/20 period.
- **Common Primary Causes:** faulty, non-compliant electrical components, such as inadequate earthing, improper fuses, and substandard wiring.



For the most up-to-date, specific, or detailed data, you can check the [Product Recalls and Alerts - GOV.UK](#)



FIRE LEAD SUBJECT EXPERT TOOLBOX

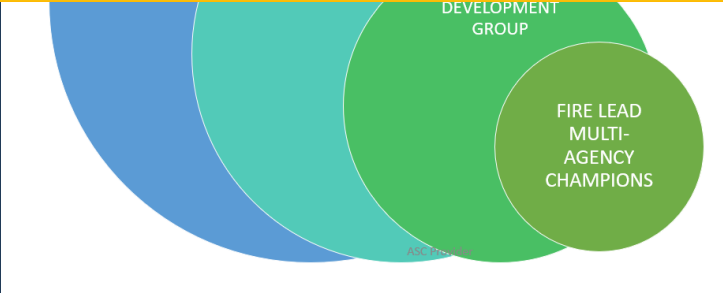
Dates for 2025:
6 March, 18 June, 17 September
& 26 November

**Multi agency
fire risk awareness training**

Free training sessions for professionals working in housing, health, social care, mental health, emergency services, and care and support services.
Email frs.cptt@westsussex.gov.uk to book.

Known Vulnerabilities Table

PERSON	BEHAVIOUR	ENVIRONMENT
Older Person	Careless Smoking Practices	No Smoke Alarm/Missing/Broken
Frailty	Alcohol or Substance Use	Living Alone
Poor Physical Health	Self-Neglect	Multiple Ignition Sources
Dementia	Unsafe, Unsanitary, Disrepair	Hoarding/Uninhabitable
Cognitive Impairment	Lack of Engagement	Oxygen/Emollient/Air Flow Mattress
Sensory Impairment	Suicidal Thoughts/Attempts	Inability to Raise Alarm
Unable to Self-Evacuate	Poor Cooking Practices	Evidence of Previous Fire



Fire service information, including recruitment, safety advice and training courses.

Safe and Well Visit Request a free safety visit for advice on making your home safer.	Smoke alarms How to choose the right smoke alarm for your home and where to install it.	Kitchen safety Tips on how to keep safe while cooking.	Electrical and heating appliance safety advice Advice on staying warm and safe in your home.
Barbecue fire safety Find out how to remain safe when using a barbecue.	High-rise premises Fire safety advice for high-rise buildings.	Chimneys Have your chimney swept regularly to prevent a fire.	Fire safety booklets For safety booklets, and visit to view information on protecting you, your family and your home.
Seasonal safety advice Find out how to remain safe on the fire right and when using fireworks.	Arson fires Information about how to prevent arson attacks.	Internal doors Close internal doors at night to prevent the spread of fire.	DIY safety Our top safety tips when carrying out do-it-yourself (DIY) home improvements.
Emollients and paraffin-based skin creams Advice on keeping safe when using emollient creams.	Smoking and e-cigarettes Tips on how to keep safe when smoking or using e-cigarettes.		



LIVING Safe and Well

west sussex county council
west sussex wellbeing



Adults' Services Fire Risk Awareness and Intervention: Practice Guidance

Version: 2.1
Effective from: October 2021
Next review date: October 2024



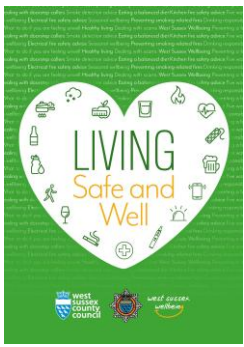
Welcome to the "Your Voice" Engagement Hub

Please complete our simple registration process to have your say, share your ideas, discuss important topics, and to provide feedback on policy, planning and contribute to the future of West Sussex. West Sussex County council will not share any of the information you provide on this form and it will not be used to identify you. We will only use the information you provide to contact you if you tell us we can. Our privacy notice is here.

Register here

TWO STEP REGISTRATION

1. Team/Service Manager or Individual to provide email (use REF# [Fire Lead Info Hub Group](#)) and send to fireandroadsafety@westsussex.gov.uk
2. Practitioner will need to register at "YOUR VOICE" and will receive a CODE to ACCESS the **FIRE SERVICE MULTI-AGENCY INFORMATION HUB** for access to fire-related updates, emerging risks, and resources for prevention activity.



PREVENTION



Collaboration is key in the targeting the most vulnerable people in the community.

- ✓ Opportunity for a conversation
- ✓ MECC make every contact count.
- ✓ Observation of common risks of fire.
- ✓ Sharing Risk
- ✓ Prevention Activity

CONSENT QUESTIONS?

Queries: frs.fireandroadsafety@westsussex.gov.uk