

Fire Safety and Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Ambassadors Moto this year is **'Think Fire'** and together with the London Fire Brigade they have co-produced this briefing on Fire Safety and Safeguarding. The SAEB is committed to work in partnership with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and other partner agencies to raise awareness of fire risks and the importance of prevention in fire safety. It is everyone's business to **'Think Fire'** and practitioners should be particularly mindful of additional vulnerabilities adults with care and support needs may face around mitigating fire risks in their homes.

1. Why is Fire Safety Important?

Many people who die or who are seriously injured in domestic fires have care and support needs and are often known to services. Building awareness of fire safety risks and how to reduce these is an effective way to help minimise risk for people who may be vulnerable to fire. LFB has focused on putting in place preventative measures to prevent fire outbreaks as well as building awareness of fire safety. Consequently, there has been a 64% decrease in fires in the past 10 years.

2. Factors increasing Fire Risks

Factors that may make someone more vulnerable to fire can include:

- Mental health conditions or cognitive impairment, such as dementia
- Mobility issues or history of falls
- Long term physical health problems
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Self- neglect and hoarding behaviours
- Smoking
- [Use of emollient creams](#)

3. You can help to prevent Fire Risks by undertaking the following resources provided by the London Fire Brigade:

- [Recognising fire hazards and signs of previous fires](#)
- [Taking action to remove or reduce the risk](#)
- [Educating people of the risks of fires and how to reduce these risks](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the [LFB 'clutter' ratings](#) so you can recognise and report the fire risks from self-neglect and hoarding
- Familiarise yourself with [fire safety prevention](#)

4. Practical Steps

There are practical steps that can be taken to support residents that may be at risk of fire:

- 1) Familiarise yourself with different fire safety risks, such as recognising the difference between smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, burn marks or cluttered accommodation
- 2) One of the most effective prevention activities is to use LFB's [Home Fire Safety Checker](#) which provides tailored advice to improve fire safety measures within a person's home.

QR Code for direct access from your smart device below



- 3) Refer someone for a Home Fire Safety Visit: www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/

5. Engage with the persons support network and/or carer to identify further support that can be offered to them.

Contact Adult Social Care for advice where someone may need an assessment of their care and support needs.

Kensington and Chelsea

T: [020 7361 3013](tel:02073613013)

E: socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

Westminster

T: [020 7641 2176](tel:02076412176)

E: adultsocialcare@westminster.gov.uk

6. Fire Safety E-Learning

This [FREE E-LEARNING](#) course produced by London Fire Brigade is for everyone that provides care and support to others in the community.

7. SAEB Resources

[Watch this short video](#) on Home Fire Safety produced by our Safeguarding Ambassadors

Download our briefings on 'Emollients and Smoking' and 'Telecare and Fire safety'

- [7-minute briefing 'Emollients and Smoking'](#)
- [7-minute briefing 'Telecare and Fire'](#)

For more information contact: makingsafeguardingpersonal@rbkc.gov.uk



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