



WMFS

West Midlands
Fire Service

The questions in this fire risk checklist will help you to understand whether a person might be at risk of injury or death from an accidental fire in their home. Complete the checklist by considering each item and ticking the box if it applies to the person.

It's important to consider everyone in the household as the risks may come from any of the people living there. Sometimes, more than one assessment might be needed for each household.

Once completed, please refer to the guidance and actions in the **What to do next** section.

Name of individual	
Full address	
Form completed by	
Date	

Personal risks due to behaviours A person in the household:		Tick all that apply
1.	Smokes in an unsafe way, such as having overflowing ashtrays, carelessly discarding smoking materials, or struggling to handle lighters or matches	
2.	Smokes in bed or in an armchair where they also sleep	
3.	Has unsafe cooking practices (for example, leaves their cooking unattended)	
4.	Has had previous fires or close calls, like burns or scorch marks on carpets, furniture, or cooking accidents (signs of these may not always be visible)	
5.	Uses candles or tealights in an unsafe way, such as placing them too close to curtains or other items that could catch fire, or where children and pets can easily reach them	

Personal risks due to behaviours A person in the household:		Tick all that apply
6.	Uses heaters, including portable heaters, in an unsafe way (for example, placing them too close to items that could catch fire, including furniture)	
7.	Is a hoarder, or there are cluttered or blocked escape routes	
8.	Charges powered transport such as mobility scooters, e-bikes or e-scooters in the home	
9.	Overloads electrical sockets, adaptors or extension leads with multiple electrical items	

Points 1-9 are high-risk factors.

Personal risks due to health. A person in the household:		Tick all that apply
10.	Uses emollient skin products and smokes, or cooks with open flames, or uses candles, or uses open fires or gas fires	
11.	Has a mental health condition (for example, dementia, anxiety, or depression) that may affect their ability to respond to a fire or alarm	
12.	Takes alcohol, illicit drugs or medication that may affect their ability to respond to a fire or alarm	
13.	Reduced cognitive or decision-making capacity to understand what to do in the event of a fire or alarm	
14.	Has restricted mobility, is frail or has a history of falls	
15.	Needs support to move (for example, needs carers or hoists to move from bed to chair)	
16.	Would need assistance or specialist equipment to exit the property	
17.	Uses an air pressure/flow mattress and/or uses home oxygen therapy (there is also an increased risk if individual smokes)	
18.	Has a sensory impairment for example hearing or sight loss that reduces their ability to respond to a fire or alarm	

Points 10-12 and 17 are high risk factors.

Risk factors in the home environment		Tick all that apply
19.	There is damaged or faulty wiring	
20.	Exits and exit routes are blocked, making it hard for the person to leave and for the fire and rescue service to enter	
21.	There are no working smoke alarms in bedrooms and living rooms, and/or no working heat alarm in the kitchen	
22.	The person will not be able to call or find it difficult to communicate with the emergency services	

Points 19-22 are high risk factors.

What to do next

Now you have completed the checklist, you should have a clearer understanding of the level of fire risk for people in the household. Please see the checklist below for next steps.

What to do next checklist	Tick to confirm completed actions
<p>If you have checked ANY of the 'High Risk' factors above, you MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an immediate referral to West Midlands Fire Service for advice or action • Follow the fire safety guidance on page 5 of this document, and share it with the person(s) to reduce risk in the meantime <p>To make a referral to West Midlands Fire Service follow this link Book a Safe & Well Check for Someone Else</p> <p>And</p> <p>If you are likely to need to make several referrals to us become a Safe & Well partner find out about bespoke Safe & Well Referral Pathways</p>	
<p>If there are NO 'High Risk' factors checked:</p> <p>Follow the fire safety guidance on page 5 of this document, and share it with the person(s)</p>	
<p>In all cases if a care plan exists, all risks and actions taken should be noted in that plan.</p>	
<p>In all cases inform the individual and if appropriate, the carers/family of any risks identified, and actions taken or needed to reduce the risks.</p>	
<p>In all cases make sure a copy of this checklist is kept on file.</p>	
<p>In all cases inform other agencies supporting the person if there is a higher risk of fire and share what actions you have taken. If the home is rented, make sure to also notify the housing provider or landlord.</p>	

Advice and guidance

Fire safety in the home

- It is safer not to smoke, but anyone who does should try to smoke outside and always make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke if there is chance of falling asleep.
- Never smoke or place an ignition source near to home oxygen therapy or pressure relieving mattresses.
- Use fire-safe ashtrays and fire-retardant bedding, nightwear, and throws.
- All emollients can act as a fire accelerant when dried into clothing and exposed to naked flames or other heat sources. Patients, carers, and relatives should be made aware of the risks.
- Candles, tealights and incense burners should be discouraged or only placed in stable, heat-resistant holders. Keep these items or other naked flames well away from curtains, furniture, and clothes.
- Sit at least one metre from heaters and keep them well away from anything that can catch fire.
- Don't overload electrical sockets. Replace block adaptors with fused extension leads, and never link extension leads.
- Switch off and unplug electrical items when not in use.
- Avoid leaving on appliances such as ovens, washing machines, and dishwashers whilst asleep.
- Avoid charging devices mobile phones, mobility scooters, e-bikes, and e-scooters whilst asleep.
- Charge large items such as electric powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters where they will not block escape routes.
- Always use the manufacturer's approved charger to charge electrical items such as mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes and e-scooters.
- Close internal doors at night as this helps to prevent fire and smoke spreading.

Early warning and detection

- As a minimum, a working smoke alarm should be fitted in the hall or landing on every floor of the home where possible. This may be the responsibility of the resident, their landlord, and the local fire and rescue service where appropriate
- Additional alarms should be fitted in other regularly inhabited rooms depending on risk.

- A heat alarm should be fitted in the kitchen.
- Consider fitting linked smoke alarms where possible (smoke alarms that all activate together) as this the best way to be alerted in the event of a fire.
- Specialist alarms (for example, strobe light and vibrating pad alarms) are available to buy for people who are Deaf or are hard of hearing.
- Remember to test all smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.

Escape

- Have an escape plan and make sure everyone in the household knows what it is.
- Make sure escape routes are kept clear of anything that may slow down or block exit routes.
- Ensure doors, windows and security gates can be easily opened to assist escape.
- Mobility aids and any methods of calling for help should always be kept close by for example mobile phones, link alarms or pendants.