

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service Home Fire Safety Checklist

Your local Community Fire Station is here to help you and your families stay safe. Fire crews can carry out a “Firesafe” visit to check your home. We can also fit free smoke detectors, especially for older or vulnerable persons.

Cheltenham East Fire Station Commander Richard Gordon would urge people to be fire aware and stay safe in 2013 by following these simple steps recommended by GFRS.

Top tips to stay safe from fire

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. Test your alarms weekly and never remove batteries for other devices.
- Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking after drinking alcohol. The majority of fires start in the kitchen. Always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.
- Never leave candles unattended, tea lights in particular as they can become extremely hot. Always use a suitable holder and place them on a suitable surface away from draughts and curtains.
- During the winter take extra care when using electrical and gas fires, never leave clothing or other items near to them.
- Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment (This safety device can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault and can be found in any DIY store).
- Don't overload sockets – only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished properly and never smoke in bed.
- Check on older relatives and neighbours to ensure their safety.
- If you are going to light your fire, make sure you have the chimney swept at least once a year.
- Plan an escape route in the event of fire and ensure everyone knows it.
- Close doors at night to stop fires from spreading.
- And finally, in the event of fire, get out, stay out and call 999.

For more information on fire safety in the home, go to www.glosfire.gov.uk or call free on 0800 180 41 40 to arrange a Free Home Safety visit.

If you know an older or vulnerable person who hasn't got a smoke alarm and may be at risk from fire, call 0800 180 41 40 to book a visit from your local Community Fire Station.

Station Commander Richard Gordon
Cheltenham East Community Fire Station