



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Protecting Our Community

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 40

CORONAVIRUS - (COVID 19) - COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) has taken measures to help protect personnel and maintain its ability to respond to emergency incidents throughout the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have also taken measures to continue our 'Safer Together' approach and to work with our partners to identify people at risk from fire in the community.

Our community will now be spending more time at home than usual. As a result, the risk of accidental fire in the home may increase. We want people to stay as safe as possible and continue to follow our **STOPFire** advice.

SMOKE ALARM: A working smoke alarm should be fitted on each level of your home.

TEST ALARMS WEEKLY: Test your alarms every week; Test it Tuesday!

OBVIOUS DANGERS: Cooking, Electrical, Smoking, Candles and Heaters.

Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Make sure the cooker or hob is turned off when you have finished cooking.

Electrical

- Switch off appliances at night unless they are designed to be left on, eg, fridge/freezers.
- Do not over-charge devices and always unplug before going to bed at night.

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed or when tired.
- Keep lighters, matches and smoking materials out of reach of children.

Candles

- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.
- Keep burning candles away from furniture, curtains, bedding, carpets, books, paper and flammable decorations.

Heaters

- Never place heaters too close to combustible surfaces or materials such as curtains or bedding. Position heaters safely so they can't be knocked over easily.
- Never dry clothes in front of portable heaters.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE: Keep all hallways and stairs clear from obstruction as items in the escape routes may stop you from getting out due to trips and slips. This is especially important if someone has mobility issues. Ensure mobility aids are close to hand for those who require them.

If there is a fire **GET OUT, STAY OUT AND CALL 999.**

During the current situation, we would ask those who are able, to check on their elderly and vulnerable neighbours and relatives and offer them support. If they are self-isolating due to their age or underlying health conditions, check if you can help by picking up items from the shop and leaving it on their doorstep. We will be posting advice on our social media feeds about keeping everyone safe from fire.

For further information phone NIFRS HQ 028 9266 4221 or visit www.nifrs.org



#STOPfire