



**Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service**

**Protecting Our Community**

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 35**

### **E-cigarettes Fire Safety**

The number of people using electronic cigarettes has increased dramatically in recent years and this rise has also seen an increase in safety concerns. E-cigarettes, also known as personal vaporisers or electronic nicotine delivery systems, are battery powered and simulate tobacco smoking by producing a vapour that resembles smoke. E-cigarettes are sold with either single-use batteries or lithium-ion rechargeable batteries. These batteries can fail whilst on or off charge, and sometimes with an explosive force.

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) wants you to avoid the dangers of e-cigarettes by following this simple advice.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully; battery capacities and charging voltages vary according to the manufacturer so it's important to check you are using the correct charger.
- Pay close attention to any warning advice supplied with the product; over-tightening of the screwed connection to the rechargeable battery, for example, can cause mechanical damage which can in turn create heat problems, product failure or even injury.
- Look for the CE mark that indicates the e-cigarette carries European Certification; ensure chargers also comply with the same safety standards; avoid buying counterfeit or substandard goods.
- Ensure that e-cigarettes are not left charging for long periods of time; don't leave e-cigarettes charging on flammable surfaces.
- Never leave e-cigarettes plugged in overnight or whilst you are out of the house.
- Never use a vaping device close to medical oxygen, flammable emollient creams or airflow mattresses.
- Never charge a battery that has been dropped or shows signs of damage.
- Never modify or adapt personal vaporisers and their associated kit.
- Keep e-cigarette nicotine fluids out of the reach of children.

It is important to understand the associated fire risks with smoking in all its forms and NIFRS will promote clear guidance and advice with partners in order to reduce the smoking related risk.

Remember, only a working smoke alarm will alert you to a fire.

Should a fire break out in the property, get out if safe to do so, stay out and dial 999 and ask for Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

For further information phone NIFRS HQ 028 9266 4221 or visit [www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org)  
**#STOPfire**

