



Hoarding and High Fire Risk



Aim of the Session

- To develop existing understanding of hoarding and hoarding behaviours
- To develop awareness of fire risks associated with hoarding
- To develop an understanding of how the clutter image rating (CIR) is used to categorise risk



Aim of the Session

- To develop the understanding/awareness of SYFRs partners of hoarding and the implications of a hoarded property on services
- To understand how to refer to the Fire Service
- [Working in partnership](#)



What is Hoarding

From a fire service perspective...

- An inability to use rooms in a home for their intended purpose
- Where the risks from fire are increased in the home due to the nature and manner of hoarded possessions
- Where access and egress are impacted to a degree that increases risk in the home



What do people hoard?

Anything can be hoarded in many different areas including the property, communal areas and garden items include but are not limited to:

- Newspapers, magazines or books.
- Bills, receipts or letters.
- Food
- Collectables such as toys, DVDs and CDs
- Animals
- Body Products (nail, hair, excrement);



Risks to the householder

Increased risk of fire

Social Isolation

Access and egress can be seriously restricted.

Self neglect

Risk of falls

Increased smoke development

In a fire situation the structural integrity of the building may be compromised, due to the absorption of water by the hoarded materials

Combustible materials are more likely to be stored close to, or in contact with, heat sources such as cookers and heaters.

Utilities can be cut off. This can lead to further unsafe practices



Risk to Others

Entrapment or
Collapse Hazards

Rotting food may be
present.

Human urine and or
excrement may be
present.

Visible rodent infestation.

Heavy insect infestation
(bed bugs, lice, fleas,
cockroaches, ants, silverfish,
etc.).

Unsafe access
safely

Risk to neighbours
property - structural
damage/Fire spread.

Poor air quality



Risks to the Firefighters

Abnormal fire development is likely which can increase severity.

Fires may become deep seated creating physically demanding conditions for firefighters

Reduced visibility

Entrapment

Fire can spread to neighbouring properties

Search pattern restricted

High Fire Loading



Clutter Image Rating

A universally recognised process to identify levels of clutter within a home. Fire & Rescue services use it to determine what fire safety interventions may be appropriate.

Level 1- 4

Seen as a manageable level however this can depend on what's being stored and where.

Level 5 - 9

If a property is a level 5 or above we record this in our database. Should crews ever be mobilised they will get a notification making them aware that this is a hoarded property.



Clutter Image Rating; Bedroom



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

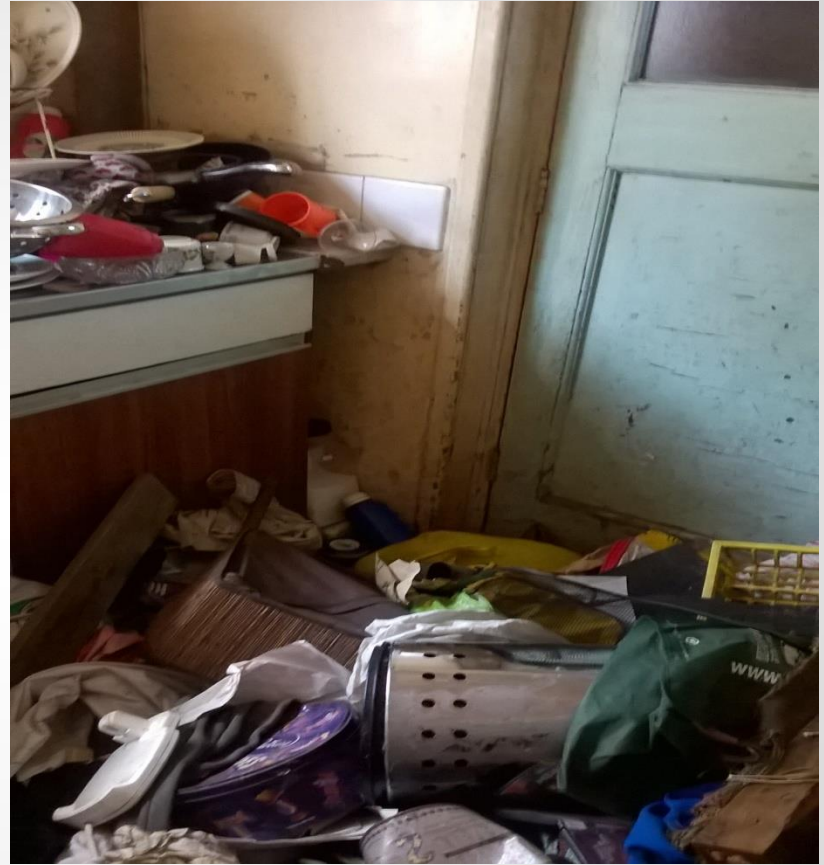


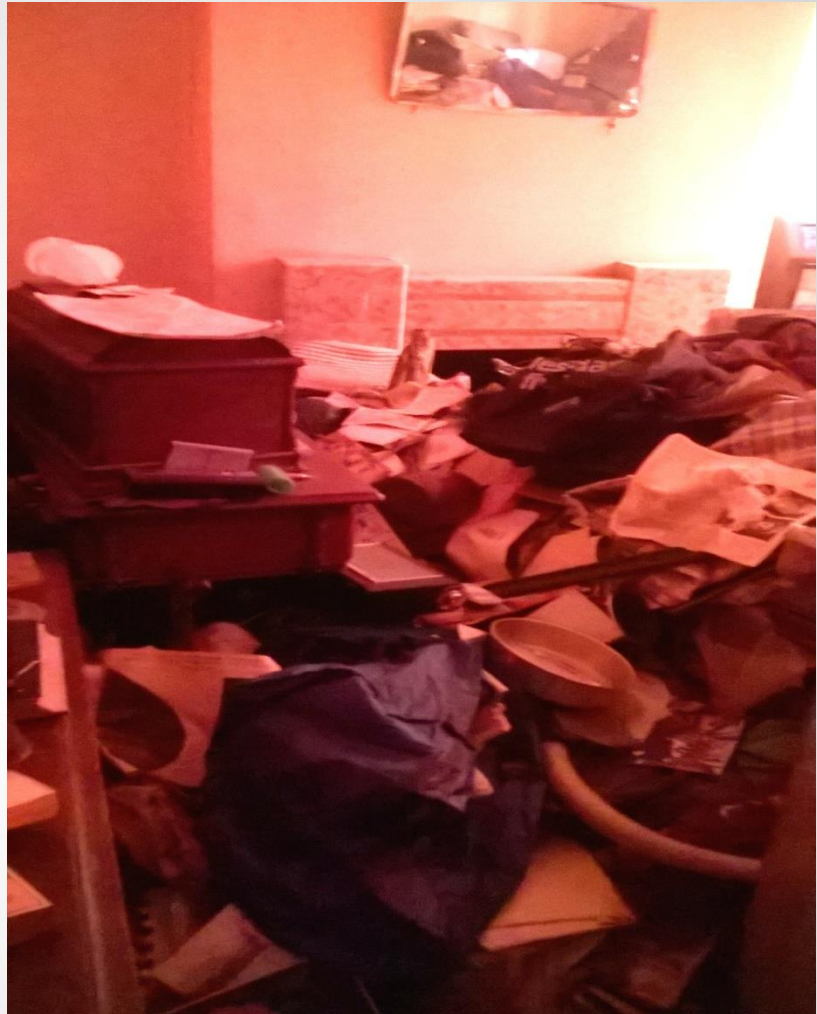
Clutter Image Rating (CIR)

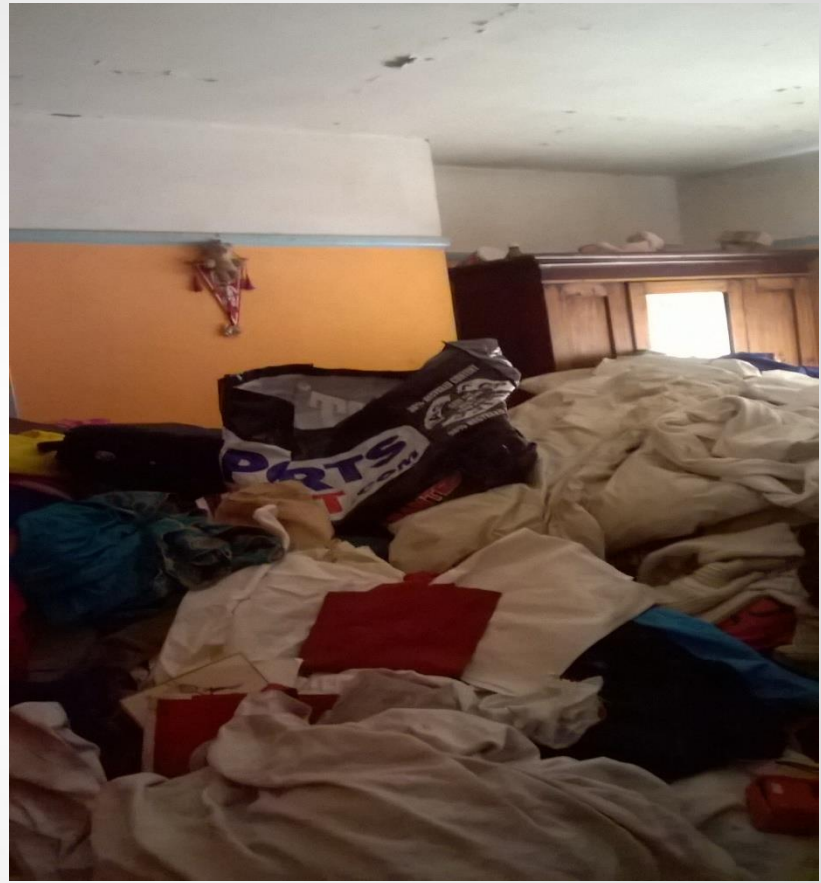
Exercise 3:

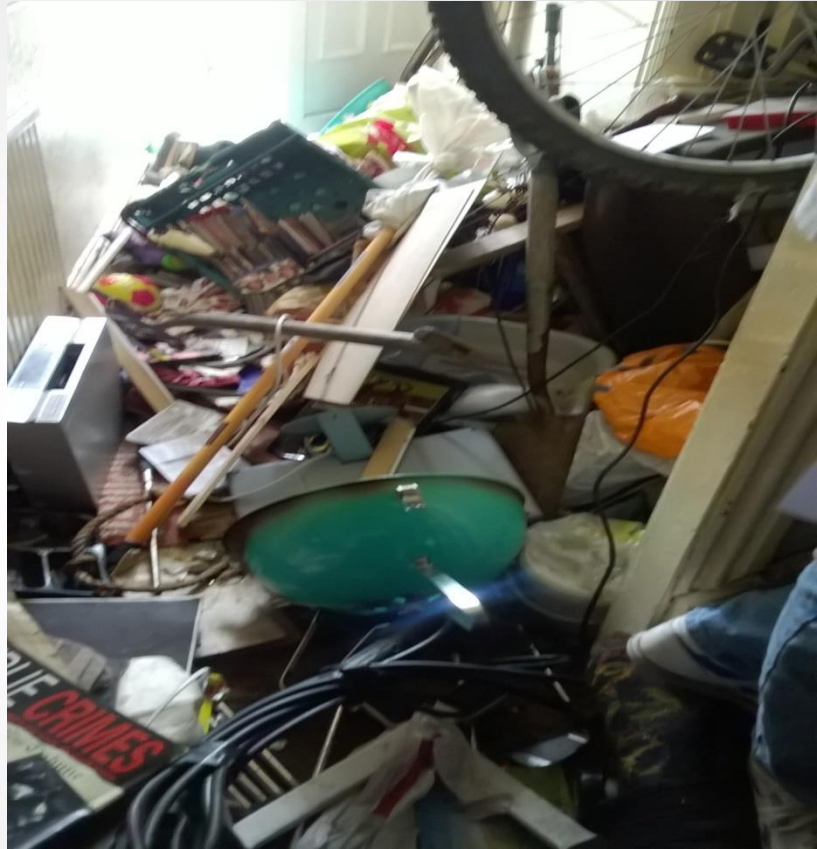
Using the copies of the CIR, agree a rating for each of the images shown











Safe& Well Checks

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue can offer

- Safety advice for service user & family/household
- Advice on bedtime routines
- Advice on Fire Action plans
- Fitting smoke alarms if needed
- Provide specialist equipment where required.
- Appointment based visits when requested
- Joint visits where required



How to become a S&W Partner

To join the scheme, please complete the Safe & Well Membership Commitments and Application Form which can be found on our website.

We will deliver awareness training to appropriate members of staff allowing your organisation to make effective referrals for HSCs.

For further information on SYFRs Safe & Well Partnership Scheme please contact Pete Jones on:

Email – pjones@syfire.gov.uk / Mobile – 07747 456197



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhmfptpwNZc>



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**



Any Questions

Hotline – 0114 2532314



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**

lets be **fire**  **safe**
together



South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE

Our prevention work over the last 15 years has helped to reduce accidental house fires to historically low levels.

But in common with most other fire and rescue services nationally, recent years have seen a slight increase in fatal incidents.

In fact, since 2011 more than 50

people have died in house fires in South Yorkshire



Most of these deaths could have been prevented, but....

we need
your help

Analysis of each incident has found common factors involved in almost all of our recent fire deaths, such as:

- **Hoarding** - mental health disorder affecting up to 1.2 million people in the UK and increasingly a factor in house fire deaths in our area.
- **Social Isolation** - over half of people who died in an accidental house fire lived alone and one in four had limited mobility.
- **Substance misuse** - alcohol or drugs were a factor in at least a quarter of all fire deaths.

lets be **fire** safe together
• **Mental health problems** - almost two thirds of deliberate fire deaths were suicides, whilst dementia is known to massively increase someone's risk of fire.



South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE

For reasons such as these, many house fire victims were already known to at least one agency, whether it's....

- **A landlord**
- **Doctor's surgery**
- **Drug and alcohol service**
- **Council**
- **Social care team.**

Sadly, in most cases....

we did
not



If we had known about them, we could have done something to help. Things like:



- Conducting home safety visits
- Fitting free smoke alarms
- Providing flame retardant bedding
- Attending joint visits
- Working with others to provide misting systems, sprinklers or other technology to prevent fires.

**The best way to help us, help
those
most at risk is to sign up to
become one
of our Safe & Well partners.**



Safe & Well

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This is a scheme which aims to improve how the fire service and local organisations work together to effectively identify and reduce hazards for people most at risk.



Safe & Well

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This is done by training our partners to spot fire risk and hazards and to refer people to us if they spot something that's unsafe.



Safe & Well

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Find out by contacting us today

safe&well@syfire.gov.uk

www.syfire.gov.uk/safe-well



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lets be **fire**  **safe**
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