

Safe & Well - A Guide for Partners

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is committed to achieving a 'safer South Yorkshire' for all communities. We have a duty to promote fire safety, particularly to those who are the most vulnerable or experience barriers in accessing our services. But we know we cannot tackle fire safety issues alone.

We know that the people who are at greatest risk of fire related death or serious injury are from vulnerable or hard to reach groups and many are already known to statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations. It is therefore vital that services focus on partnership working to improve identification and access to those most at risk in our communities.

The **Safe & Well** scheme aims to improve how the fire service, partners and other local organisations work together to effectively identify and reduce risks for people from high risk and excluded groups.

Does your organisation provide services or support to high risk or excluded people or households?

If the answer is yes please sign up to our **Safe & Well** scheme.

What do you need to do?

To join, please complete the **Safe & Well membership and commitments form**, which outlines the agreement for both the fire service and your organisation. We will ask you to agree to us delivering fire awareness training to appropriate members of staff within your organisation. In turn, you will refer individuals who will benefit from free smoke alarms and our Safe & Well Check service. All information is available on our website.

www.syfire.gov.uk/safe-well

What are the benefits for your organisation?

We believe the Safe & Well scheme is an accessible way for our partners and other local organisations to ensure essential safety measures are in place for their service users. Membership of the scheme will go a long way towards promoting your duty of care in ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of your most vulnerable service users.

The scheme will also contribute to the ongoing development of your staff by providing free fire safety training for relevant members of your organisation.

What will the fire service do?

The most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries is to prevent incidents occurring in the first place. That's why we are committed to offering free Safe & Well checks to vulnerable people throughout South Yorkshire. During a Safe & Well Check, firefighters will give advice on how to make the home safer and plan what to do in the event of a fire. They will also fit free smoke alarms if the property is without one, provide wellbeing advice and refer to others for further support.

In some cases an individual or household may be referred to our Community Safety Team for additional intervention. These referrals are made when a serious risk has been identified and further intervention is required, as the fitting of smoke alarms or fire safety advice are not enough to reduce any fire risks sufficiently. This work may involve the provision of fire safety equipment such as flame retardant bedding or throws, deaf alarms, or further signposting to partner agencies and additional risk management in collaboration with partners.

Do you know someone at risk from fire?

Someone is considered more at risk if they:

- Are over 50 years of age
- Live alone
- Have a physical or learning disability
- Have a sensory or cognitive impairment, including dementia or memory loss
- Take any medication that may affect their ability to react to or escape from fire
- Have a mental health illness
- Have substance or alcohol dependency
- Are a smoker
- Are unable to protect themselves from harm for any reason

Risks and hazards to consider when referring someone for a Home Safety Check (HSC)

- Lack of working smoke alarms in the property
- Resident over the age of 50 in the property
- Occupier lives alone
- Immobility affecting the ability to escape in a fire
- Overflowing ashtrays or cigarettes lying discarded around the property
- Burns to the person, clothing, bedding, carpets or furniture
- Evidence of substance or alcohol misuse
- Unsafe cooking practices such as pans or grills being left unattended
- Evidence of overloaded plug sockets/adaptors
- Evidence of Hoarding
- Resident with a hearing or visual impairment
- Unsafe home oxygen use, like smoking alongside use of home oxygen
- Residents targeted by arson attack or threat of arson
- Threat of a fire related hate crime
- Fire setting activity within the household
- Air-filled pressure relieving mattress user
- Use of paraffin based emollient creams
- 6 or more people living in the property
- Children under 5 living in the property
- Residents who may have care and support needs

For further information please contact us:

safe&well@syfire.gov.uk

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