



**DEVON &  
SOMERSET**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

## Press Release

### **Call the Service for a home fire safety check**

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is promoting its Home Fire Safety Check scheme in this area.

Members of the public can contact the Service for fire safety advice and may be eligible for a home visit from a trained member of staff.

A key feature of the check is to ensure people having working smoke alarms in their home which are most suitable for their circumstances.

Lorraine Kamp, of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, said: “We must all make sure that we have enough smoke alarms to cover our whole homes. If you don’t have enough, or they’re not in the right place, you might not be alerted in time.

“You should make sure you have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, preferably in hallways and landings. And placing smoke detectors near to sleeping areas and in rooms where there are electrical appliances could give you the extra warning you need.

“It’s also important to remember that smoke alarms don’t last forever. The power might work, but the mechanism deteriorates with time. So whether they are battery operated or wired to the mains, to work at their best they should be replaced every ten years.”

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service offers these five smoke alarm top tips:

- Install a smoke alarm at least on every level of your home
- The ideal position is on the ceiling, in the middle of a room or on a hallway or landing
- Consider fitting additional alarms in other rooms where there are electrical appliances and near sleeping areas
- Don’t put alarms in or near kitchens and bathrooms where smoke or steam can set them off by accident
- Replace your smoke alarms every ten years.

The Service is also urging carers and people who keep a close eye on less able relatives to check that these homes have enough smoke alarms in the right places too.

For more information on Service's free home fire safety advice service, call 0800 05 02 999.



**Fire Safety in the Home advice.**



Preventing fires and limiting the damage they cause is a top priority for Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. Follow our simple advice and top tips to ensure your home and the people you care about are safe.

**Follow our safety tips to ensure you cook safely:**

- More than half of accidental fires in the home are started by cooking. It is easy to be distracted whilst cooking.
- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean, a build-up of fat and grease can catch fire.
- Avoid cooking if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that can make you drowsy.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob; take care if you're wearing loose clothing.
- Do not leave saucepan handles sticking out to avoid them getting knocked off the stove.

**FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**

- **Are you over 50?**
- **Do you live alone?**
- **Do you have a disability?**
- **Do you have limited Mobility?**

If you answer Yes to either of the above, you may be entitled to a Free Smoke Alarm and Home Fire Safety Check. Contact Fire Kills on **0800 05 02 999** or Sallie at Bideford Fire Station **01237 423859**

