



Fire Kills: Facts

- Just 2-3 breaths of toxic smoke from a house fire can render you unconscious
- The toxic smoke from a house fire can kill a child in under a minute
- Every 5 days somebody dies from a fire caused a cigarette
- You are four times as likely to die in a house fire if you do not have a working smoke alarm
- 1 in 4 smoke alarms' in homes in England is likely to fail in a house fire because it is clogged, broken, or most often because the battery is flat or has been removed.

Fire Make sure your smoke alarm is working

In England last year 246 people died in fires in the home and another 7,400 were injured. Just two to three breaths of toxic smoke from a house fire can leave you unconscious and unable to escape. That's why you need to do everything possible to stack the odds in favour of you and your loved ones surviving a fire.

A working smoke alarm can buy you the valuable time you need to escape a house fire. In many cases, it can alert you before the fire catches hold. Whilst the majority of homes in England now have at least one smoke alarm installed, 1 in 4 of these are likely to fail in a fire in the home because it is clogged, broken, or most commonly because the battery is flat or has been removed. Having a smoke alarm will only help you if it is working – so it is vital that you test it regularly.

A few simple steps can help keep your home and everyone in it safe from fire – from making sure that cooking and candles are never left unattended to putting cigarettes out properly and planning your escape route. Common sense but again life saving.

Fire spreads quickly. You could have less than 2 minutes to escape so it is important that in the event of a fire you know the best way out to safety. So plan your escape route and make sure that everybody in your home knows about it.

The most important thing to remember is that in the event of a fire **get out, stay out and call 999** – never attempt to tackle a fire yourself.

Did you know your landlord also has a responsibility for keeping you safe from fire by ensuring your gas and electrical appliances are always in good working order? Your local Fire and Rescue Service can also provide you with valuable advice to keep you safe in your home. So talk to them directly, if you need a helping hand. Or visit www.facebook.com/firekills to find out more.