



East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service  
**Care Providers & Support Workers  
Tip Sheet**



**When entering a client's property the following tips will help you to identify hazards and decide whether to refer the client for a Home Safety Visit:**

**Smoke alarms give the earliest warning of fire - please check**

- If over 10 years old they require replacing.
- Test these. Do they work?
- Are they in the correct place to detect an emergency situation?
- Is there one on each level?

**Smoking - a major contributor to fire deaths**

- Are there signs of burns on carpets/furniture/bedding/clothing?
- Are there carelessly discarded cigarettes on floors?
- Are there lighters/matches in reach of young children?

**Alcohol/Substance misuse & prescribed medication impair the senses and slow down the individual's reaction to an emergency situation**

- Are there indications of heavy drinking or substance misuse (ALWAYS REFER)

**Sensory impairments**

- Individuals with a hearing impairment may not hear a standard alarm.  
Refer to ESFRS for a home safety visit and assessment.

**Hoarding greatly increases the fire loading**

- Are there flammable materials stored near to ignition sources?
- Are they storing dangerous or highly flammable materials?
- Are exit routes blocked?

**General home safety**

- Is there previous history of fires?
- Is there domestic abuse?
- Is there any threat of arson?
- Are there overloaded electrical sockets?
- Are there blocked exit routes?
- Are there electrical/gas appliances in a poor/dangerous condition?
- Are cooking appliances in good order? A build-up of fat and grease can cause a fire.

**Disabilities - physical/mental health**

- Would the disability affect the individual's ability to react to an emergency situation?
- Ability to raise the alarm?
  - Ability to escape from the property?

*For more information, contact:*

**The Community Safety Team**

Tel: **0800 177 7069**

Email: **Care.Providers@esfrs.org**

Fire may start at any anytime, anywhere and for reasons you do not expect.  
Please visit [www.blackmuseum.info](http://www.blackmuseum.info) - *Safer by knowing.*