



Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service | Reassurance Campaign **263**

Wallasey

Smoking & Home Safety

The place where we feel safest — at home — is where most smoking-material related fires, deaths, and injuries occur.

Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths, and smoking material fires are preventable.

The risk of dying in a house fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.

One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigs)

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is warning people not to leave e-cigarettes on charge for long periods of time following recent incidents on Merseyside and across the UK where devices have exploded.

- **Never** leave e-cigarettes on charge or unattended for long periods
- **Never** charge over night
- **Never** charge near to or on combustible or flammable materials
- **Never** mix components of different e-cigarettes
- **Always** use the charger supplied
- **Always** ensure you purchase your e-cigarette from a reputable source
- **Always** check the e-cigarette carries CE certification
- **Always** follow the manufacturer's guidance supplied with the device
- **Always** utilize a Li-Po safe charging pouch
- Contact Trading Standards over any e-cigarette safety concerns

E cigarettes are very new to the market place and as such there are no specific regulations governing their safety.

Please exercise extreme caution when considering whether to buy or use these products, if you do buy e cigarette ensure they are from a reputable UK retailer.

Safety tips if you smoke

- never smoke in bed - it's very easy to fall asleep and allow your cigarette to set light to your bedclothes or furnishings
- don't smoke if you're drowsy - especially if you're sitting in a comfortable chair or if you've been drinking or taking prescription drugs; again, it's easy to fall asleep
- don't leave a lit cigarette (or cigar or pipe) - they can easily overbalance and land on the carpet or other flammable material; and make sure your ashtray is heavy and can't tip easily
- make totally sure that your butts (and any remains in your pipe bowl) aren't still smoldering when you've finished with them; wet them and empty your ashtray into a metal bin outside the house
- keep lighters, matches and smoking materials out of the reach of children - you can also buy child-resistant lighters and containers for matches



DANGER

NO SMOKING
OXYGEN IN USE



Using Home Oxygen Equipment Safely

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service advise people when using oxygen equipment there are some simple and important safety measures that must be followed.

- **Never** smoke, or let anyone smoke near you whilst are using oxygen.
- **Never** use oxygen equipment near (within 3 meters) of a cooker, open fire or naked flame.
- **Never** leave the cannula or mask on clothes, the bed or other flammable materials whilst oxygen equipment is switched on
- **Never** use oil based creams or creams containing petroleum jelly when using oxygen equipment.
- **Never** keep combustible materials near oxygen equipment, such as newspapers, magazines, clothing and other items that may burn easily.
- **Never** adjust the oxygen flow rate to anything other than that prescribed by your healthcare professional.
- **Always** use or store oxygen equipment in a well-ventilated area.
- **Always** turn off oxygen equipment when not using it.

In the event of a fire, leave the building immediately and phone 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service and advise the emergency operator that there is oxygen on the premises.

Top Tip's



Fit smoke alarms



Test it



Plan an escape route



Get out, stay out and call 999

A working smoke alarm saves lives

- Over 200 people a year die in accidental house fires
- In England, 500 children under the age of 11 are injured and 18 are killed in fires in the home every year
- 2-3 breaths of toxic smoke can render you unconscious
- 37% of deaths happened in homes where no smoke alarm was fitted
- 1 in three battery alarms fail to work in fires, usually because the battery was dead or intentionally removed
- You're more than four times as likely to die in a fire if you don't have a working smoke alarm

**Call 0800 731 5958 for advice on Smoke Alarms
CO Alarms and Home Safety Advice (quote 263)**

