



Dear All

This is some advice that we have had from Hereford and Worcester Fire and rescue service which we would like to share with you.

We are looking to promote some key fire safety messages during the current pandemic situation. We are aware families will be spending more time at home than ever before. This obviously brings different challenges on many levels. From a fire safety point of view, would it be possible please to circulate the below top tips to parents via your usual communication routes?

Many thanks in advance for your support.

How to Stay Fire Safe

You should have working smoke alarms fitted on every level of your home. They give you vital time to 'get out, stay out and call 999' if ever you're unlucky enough to have a fire. And it's crucial that you test them regularly – we advise once a week.

With more people staying at home, we are asking everyone to be extra careful, to avoid fires happening in the first place...some top tips

If you're at home because you're ill or self-isolating, please take extra care if you're cooking. Most house fires start in the kitchen. Always 'Watch what you heat'.

Switch off any electrical items you're not using. If you use a charger, for a phone or laptop for example, don't leave it plugged in and switched on when you're asleep or not using it.

Candles should be secured safely in a proper holder and never left unattended. Same with a portable heater, remember not to put it close to things that could easily catch fire, like bedding, clothes, soft furnishings or curtains.

If you smoke, be extra vigilant. Keep matches and lighters away from children, and double check that your cigarette is properly extinguished. Try not to smoke if you've been drinking alcohol, and avoid smoking in bed or if you're feeling sleepy. If you can do so safely, smoke outdoors.

Whenever possible, especially when you're asleep, keep all internal doors closed. This helps to stop fire spreading.

Plan and practice an escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware. If a fire does happen, don't be tempted to tackle it yourself. Get out (closing doors as you go), stay out and call 999.

Please share these messages with friends and family, and check in with those who may be older and more vulnerable. If you would like any further advice please visit www.hwfire.org.uk or call 0800 032 1155

Stay safe