

7 Minute Briefing – London Fire Brigade

Fire Safety in the Home

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Intervention opportunity

Betty aged 65 years. Suffered from poor mobility and mostly confined to living room, including sleeping. She smoked and the fire was caused by a cigarette that she was smoking falling onto her duvet while she dozed on the sofa

A month before the fire, Betty's smoke alarm was identified by carers as not working. Sadly, Betty was unable to escape from the fire or raise the alarm in time.

2 Why?

The majority of people who die or are seriously injured in domestic fires have common vulnerabilities and are known to public service agencies.

Some of the most vulnerable people in our society are still dying from fires in places where they should be safe

3 How can we prevent fire deaths and injury?

- Take fire risk seriously
- Spot the signs
- Take Responsibility/Take Action

4 Consequences for your client could be devastating and include:

- Loss of life, Loss of home, property and possessions
- They could suffer life changing injuries such as burns
- You may be subject to legal action (for those responsible for care)

5 What makes someone more vulnerable?

- Mental health conditions including Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- Mobility issues e.g. use of walking aid or wheelchair
- History of falls
- Long term health problems such as Parkinson's disease, heart disease, stroke, or is a home oxygen user
- Drinking alcohol or use of prescription or recreational drugs
- Sensory impairment e.g. sight or hearing loss
- Hoarding

6 What is your role?

- Recognise the fire hazards and signs of previous fires
- Take immediate action if possible to reduce/remove risk
- Use the Checklist for person centred fire risk
- Record and report your concerns to line managers
- Contact the fire service for a home fire safety visit on SWCFSHSV@london-fire.gov.uk

7 What is a Home Fire Safety Visit?

LFB will visit the resident in their home and give advice on:

PREVENTION / DETECTION / ESCAPE

- Visits are free of charge and can include the fitting of smoke alarms
- Specialist alarms for the sensory impaired are also available
- Arson proof letterboxes are available (for those at risk of domestic abuse)
- LFB can also provide presentations on home fire safety for Workplace training events free of charge. SWCFSHSV@london-fire.gov.uk