

Fire Risk Awareness in the Service User's Home

You should be able to answer "YES" to all these questions. If there are any "NO" answers immediate action should be taken to correct the situation

Hazard / Observation	YES	NO	Comments
A: IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT IN YOUR HOME			
Do you know that if fire breaks out your first duty is to get everybody out of the house and call the Fire Service (999)?			
Does everybody in your family, or in the house, know how to call the Fire Service?			
Did you know that there are no charges for calling out the Fire Service?			
Do you realise that your own efforts at fire-fighting may not be successful, and that fire can spread very rapidly?			
Do you therefore realise that fire-fighting should not be attempted until the Fire Service has been called, and then only if there is no risk to yourself?			
Have you thought about the safest way that you and other persons can safely escape from your home if fire breaks out?			
Do you know that the door of the room in which the fire has started should be kept shut in order to delay / minimise spread of the fire?			
Do you know that, if trapped by fire, you should go into a room, shut and cover the bottom of the door, and call for help from the window?			
In such cases, do you realise that it is essential to cover the bottom of the door with a blanket or carpet, in order to keep out the smoke?			
Do you know that smoke alarms can detect a fire in its earliest stages, and sound a warning that will increase your chances of being able to escape?			
Do you have at least one smoke alarm on each floor of your house?			
Do you regularly check each smoke alarm to ensure that it is functioning properly?			

Person conducting Assessment: _____ Position: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of Service User: _____

Hazard / Observation	YES	NO	Comments
B: FIRES, HEATERS & ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN YOUR HOME			
Are portable heaters always placed away from combustible materials, and where they cannot be knocked over?			
Are there adequate secure fireguards for all open fires and heaters, and are they always kept in place when needed?			
Are chimneys which are in regular use swept at least twice a year, or once a year if you use smokeless fuel?			
Do you know that if you have a chimney fire you should call the Fire Service?			
Does somebody make sure that all fires are made safe before the family retires to bed?			
Do you realise that a faulty fireplace may be the cause of the fire spreading to the rest of the house?			
Can you call upon the services of a qualified electrician to carry out electrical installations, repairs and alterations?			
Do you have sufficient power sockets to take all the portable electrical appliances you may need without overloading with multiple adapters etc?			
Do you try and avoid the use of long flexes, and flexes that are frayed or damaged?			
Are you sure that fuses are only replaced with fuses of the correct rating?			
Does somebody ensure that all electrical appliances not in use are switched off and unplugged last thing at night?			
Electric blankets - do you ensure that they are used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (e.g. over-blanket or under-blanket)?			
Electric blankets - if an electric blanket is required to be left on all night, is the chosen product designed for this purpose?			
Electric blankets - do you ensure that these are checked at least once a year by a qualified electrician?			
If you have an electric iron, do you have a safe stand that keeps it away from the surfaces of table-tops and ironing boards?			

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Name of Service User: _____

Hazard / Observation	YES	NO	Comments
C: FLAMMABLE MATERIALS & WASTE DISPOSAL IN YOUR HOME			
Do you realise that it is very dangerous to use paraffin or petrol to light or revive a fire?			
Do you realise that it is very dangerous to use petrol in the house for any reason since petrol vapours are highly flammable and can travel?			
Do you realise that other household products such as methylated spirit, white spirit, some paints and adhesives, and aerosol cans are flammable?			
If you have to use a flammable liquid do you ensure that it is kept in a securely stoppered container and in a safe place away from heat?			
Do you fill petrol or paraffin appliances well away from possible sources of fire and, if possible, outside the house?			
Since rubbish is a good starting place for a fire, do you ensure rubbish is regularly cleared out of attics, cupboards, and from under the stairs?			
Do you avoid the burning of rubbish?			
Are ashes from open fires put into a covered metal container if possible, and stored outside the house to await disposal?			
Are there sufficient ashtrays for those persons in the house who smoke?			
Do you smoke your last cigarette before going to bed, and NEVER in bed?			
Do you ensure that all cigarette butts are safely stubbed out?			
Do you avoid leaving lighted candles unattended?			
Do you take the precaution of closing the living room door, and all other downstairs doors before going to bed?			
Do you ensure that matches and lighters are kept out of the reach of children?			
Special occasions - do you think of possible fire risks with Christmas decorations, especially Christmas tree lights?			

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Hazard / Observation	YES	NO	Comments
D: IN THE KITCHEN			
Do you avoid hanging linen and clothing over stoves and cookers to dry them?			
Are you careful how you hang linen and clothing around open fires, using clothes horses or special hanging racks?			
When drying linen and clothing around an open fire do you always protect the fire using fireguards?			
Do you never leave pans of fat or containers of cooking oil unattended when cooking?			
If fat catches fire do you know that the correct way to deal with it is to smother the fire with a lid, plate or damp cloth, and turn off the heat?			
Do you know that you should NEVER try and put out a fat / oil fire with water?			
Do you have a proper domestic fire blanket and / or household fire extinguisher within easy access in the kitchen?			
Do you understand how to use a fire extinguisher, and is it regularly (annually) checked to ensure that it continues to work properly?			

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