



Don't Drown in Toxic Smoke: Fire Kills key statistics and tips

In 2007 there were 35,000 accidental house fires in England

The main reason that smoke alarms fail to activate is missing or flat batteries

19 people are injured in an accidental house fire in England every day

Cigarettes and smoking materials are the leading cause of deaths in an accidental house fire

Most accidental house fires start in the kitchen, with 54% started by cooking

You're more at risk from an accidental house fire if you are aged 65 and over

Source: Communities and Local Government
Fire Statistics 2007



FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

1. **Fit a smoke alarm** — on each level of the property. When a fire starts, there is little time to escape so an early warning is vital. Batteries should be replaced every year and smoke alarm units should be replaced after 10 years.
2. **Test alarms weekly** - a working smoke alarm can buy valuable time to enable you to escape from a fire.
3. **Plan your escape route** – make sure you and your family know the quickest way out in the event of a fire. Consider an alternative route in case your usual one is blocked.
4. **Stay safe in the kitchen** — this is the area where most accidental house fires start. It only takes a few seconds to check electrical appliances are switched off. Also, never leave cooking unattended.
5. **Ask the experts** — Many Fire and Rescue Services in England offer free home fire risk checks to identify potential fire risks and advise what to do to reduce or prevent them.

If a fire does break out in the home, then Get out, Stay out and Call 999.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.direct.gov.uk/firekills