

1. Fire risk, health and social care

Adults with health and care needs are vulnerable to fire for a range of reasons including disability, infirmity, poor mobility, poor mental health, self-neglect, hoarding, poor smoking habits, and the use of home fire-places. The risk from fire is significantly higher for people who hoard or neglect themselves or their home.

2. Fire risk and medication/treatments

Some medications and treatments will increase the speed and intensity of fire, such as emollient creams, air-flow mattresses and Oxygen therapy. Others may have a sedative effect meaning that individuals may be slower to react in the event of a house fire.

3. Deaths in Shropshire

In a three-month period there were six fire deaths in Shropshire. This is significant and worryingly high.

Many of the adults who died were known to either secondary health services or social care. **The best way to avoid fire deaths is to prevent house fires by referring to Shropshire Fire and Rescue.**

8. How to refer

Email: safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk

Call: 01743 260200

REMEMBER - PREVENTION IS THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE DEATHS BY HOUSE FIRE.



4. Training for partner agencies

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service offer free training to partner agencies entitled 'Look and Refer'. Find out more here: safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk

7. Capacity and consent

If someone has capacity to decide themselves, all referrals should be made with their consent.

If someone lacks capacity, then a Best Interest Decision should be made before referring.

If someone has capacity and is refusing a referral and you are concerned about the fire risk, discuss next steps with fire and rescue service.

6. Other services available

The online home fire safety check provides a person-centred self-assessment of fire risk for individuals. This can be used by the home occupant or a third party on their behalf <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/>

Free smoke alarms are available to adults who; are over 75, have a long-term sickness, have a disability or are physically unable to fit them.

5. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service safe and well visit

The purpose of the visit is to ensure that individuals are aware of the potential hazards within the home and can take appropriate actions. More details can be found here: [Safe and Well Visit | Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Preventing Fire Deaths

Working with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

April 2024