

# Fire Safety Presentation tutor notes



Fire Safety

Making West Yorkshire Safer  
www.westyorkfire.gov.uk

**This Powerpoint presentation will help to identify: -**

- fire risks
- a bed time routine
- an escape plan

## **Slide 2 Role of firefighter**

## **Slide 3 Ask audience to identify the safety messages from the slide animations**

### **Slide 4 In the kitchen**

#### **Cooking safely**

- Do not leave pans unattended
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out
- Take care if wearing loose clothing
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob
- Always double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking

#### **Electrics**

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains, kitchen rolls and under wall units

#### **Pan fires**

- Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so
- Never throw water over it
- Do not tackle the fire yourself
- Get out, stay out and call 999

#### **Tumble dryer, washing machine safety**

- Don't leave the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher running overnight or while you are out. They are a fire risk because of their high wattage, friction and motors.
- Remove the lint from the filter trap after every load of clothes has dried. Do not cover the vent or any other opening.
- Ensure the vent pipe is free of kinks and is not crushed in any way. Only use recommended vent pipes, and not improvised ones.
- Only vent the warm air to the outside of a building. Do not put rags or materials into your tumble dryer if they have been used to soak up flammable liquids.

### **Slide 5 Candles**

More than 15,000 candle fires are reported annually. The bulk of candle-fire incidents are due to inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles.

- Don't burn a candle all the way down. Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container.
- Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room but away from drafts, vents and air currents which may cause rapid flame flare-ups or blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame.

- Put candles out when you leave the room, and make sure they're put out completely before going to sleep.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children or pets and do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over.
- Never touch a burning candle or move a candle when the wax is liquid.
- Make sure candles are placed in a holder that is non-flammable, prevents the candle from falling over and is big enough for the size of candle you are using.
- Be sure the candleholder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface which will prevent possible heat damage to surfaces and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.

#### **Slide 6      Electrical fires**

- Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating.
- Certain appliances, such as washing machines, should have a single plug to themselves, as they are high powered.
- Try and keep to one plug per socket.
- Keep your eyes peeled for signs of dangerous or loose wiring such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow or circuit-breakers that trip for no obvious reasons, or flickering lights.
- Unplugging appliances helps reduce the risk of fire.

#### **Safe use of extensions and adapters**

- An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take, so be careful not to overload it.
- Appliances use different amounts of power - a television may use a 3amp plug and a vacuum cleaner a 5amp plug for example.
- Anything that gets hot is normally a high wattage appliance (washers, dryers, irons, hairdryers, hair straighteners) and should not be plugged into extensions or adaptors and used with other appliances.

#### **Slide 7      Smoking materials and lighters**

Cigarettes can cause a fire if not handled with care. Please follow the advice below and reduce the risk of a cigarette causing a fire:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Use a proper ashtray - never a wastepaper basket.
- Make sure your ashtray can't tip over and is made of a material that won't burn.
- Don't leave a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe lying around. They can easily fall over and start a fire.
- Take extra care if you smoke when you're tired, taking prescription drugs, or if you've been drinking. You might fall asleep and set your sofa or bed on fire.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

#### **Slide 8      Smoke detection in the home and correct location**

- One per occupied level
- Test once a week (press with broom handle, umbrella etc.)
- Away from kitchen or bathroom

#### **Slide 9      Deaf alarms**

- WIFI alarm which activates vibrating pad and strobe unit

#### **Slide 10      Home safety**

**Chimney fires** happen when soot or wood sap deposits in the chimney catch light due to high temperatures or flames from a very hot fire extending into the outlet.

There are four main reasons for chimney fires happening:

- Infrequent **sweeping** and cleaning
- Burning **unseasoned wet wood**
- Improper appliance sizing
- Overnight burning or smouldering wood for long periods in wood burners.

Sweeping flue/chimney will remove deposits which have built up due to the burning of carbon-based fuels, such as coal, wood, oil and gas. It makes sure there is a clear and safe passage for gases caused by the burning process, which are combustible, making the risk of the chimney catching fire less. Sweeping will also mean that objects such as nests, cobwebs and loose brickwork, which could obstruct the chimney, are also removed.

- Always use a **fire guard** when not in the room.

#### **Portable heaters**

- Try to secure heaters up against a wall to stop them falling over.
- Keep them clear from curtains and furniture and never use them for drying clothes

#### **Drying clothes**

- Do not dry clothes in front of a gas/open fire

### **Slide11 Bed time routine**

- Close inside doors at night to stop a fire spreading
- Turn off and unplug electrical devices unless they are designed to left on permanently (eg freezer)
- Check cooker is turned off and that candles/cigarettes are extinguished
- Turn off heaters and ensure that fire guards are left in front of open fires
- Ensure exits are kept clear and door and windows and door and window keys are kept where everyone can find them
- Do not leave washers and dryers on overnight

### **Slide 12 Aiding escape**

Every household should have some sort of escape plan in place just in case the worst should happen.

#### **Plan Together**

Plan together as a family, ensuring that all the children in the household know the plan and what to do in the unlikely event of a fire occurring. Special arrangements need to be made in consideration of any elderly people.

#### **The Escape Route**

Ensure that the escape route is practical and can be carried out. Regularly talk about the escape plan so it is fresh in your minds. It is also advisable to have a room in which you could all remain during a worse case scenario. Make sure all the children know your address in case they have to telephone the emergency services.

#### **Shout for Help**

It's important to let firefighters know you are there, and if you haven't managed to call 999 you need to raise the alarm. Lean out of the window to breathe if you need to. Keep drawing attention to yourself. If the window is locked try breaking it with a heavy object. Strike the window in the corner hard to break the glass.

#### **Actions to be taken in the event of a house fire**

- Keep calm and act quickly, get everyone out as soon as possible.
- Don't waste time investigating what's happened or rescuing valuables.
- If there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
- Before you open a door check if it's warm. If it is, don't open it.
- Call 999 as soon as you're clear of the building. 999 calls are free.