



Advice for keeping your loved ones and home safe

With hopefully some warm and sunny weather to come over the summer months, here's a reminder of some important fire safety advice to help you and your family stay safe.

In warmer weather it's particularly important to remember to:

- **Keep fire doors closed** - don't be tempted to prop them open even in the warm weather.
- **When barbecuing or using things like fire pits or outside heaters remember:**
 - Stay with it at all times; never leave it unattended.
 - Keep children, pets and garden games away from it.
- Keep a bucket of water or hose pipe nearby in case of emergencies.
 - Use only enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 50mm/2inches.
- **Dispose of ashes safely** - never put ashes straight into a dustbin/ wheelie bin; they could melt the plastic and cause a fire.

- **Dispose of cigarettes in an ashtray** and ensure they're properly extinguished to avoid dry grass catching fire.
- **Keep glass bottles off the lawn** - the glass can magnify the heat from the sun and ignite a fire on the dry grass.
- **Make sure bins are properly stored** and kept at least 6 metres away from your home, fencing and sheds.

Fire safety tips

Here are some simple steps you can take to prevent a fire from happening – keeping you and your loved ones safe.



Regularly check that smoke and heat detectors work. Change the batteries at least once a year. Don't remove any detectors from your home.



Only use one plug per socket.



Check regularly if any electrical cables or appliances are damaged and replace immediately if needed.



Keep automatic closers on doors and keep fire doors closed.



Always keep an eye on pans when cooking and make sure things like tea towels, kitchen roll and loose clothing are kept well away from the hob.



Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good working order.



Only put non-metallic items in the microwave – foil and metal will spark.



Be careful when frying food. Only fill pans up to one third with oil and if the oil starts to smoke, it means it is too hot – turn off the heat and leave it to cool.



If there is a hot fat fire – turn off the heat, if it's safe to do so. Leave the kitchen and call 999. Never use water to try and put it out.



Keep electric heaters or fires away from curtains and furniture, and never use them to dry clothes. Always turn them off when you go to bed or when you go out.



Make sure cigarettes and candles are extinguished properly and safely disposed of. Never smoke in bed.



Close all internal doors and switch off all appliances before going to bed.



Keep barbecues, fire pits, chimeneas and outside heaters off balconies – these should never be used.

To watch our series of fire safety video clips, produced in partnership with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, visit

www.irwellvalley.co.uk/customers-residents/health-and-safety/fire-safety.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe!

