



Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Fatal Fires Findings

What we have learned from  
fatal Fires in Essex.

How we use this information  
to inform our prevention  
activities and interventions.





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Fatal Fires Report



**16** deaths  
occurred in Essex  
between January  
2021 &  
December 2022,  
as a result of an  
Accidental  
Dwelling Fire.



53 ADFs  
where people  
were injured



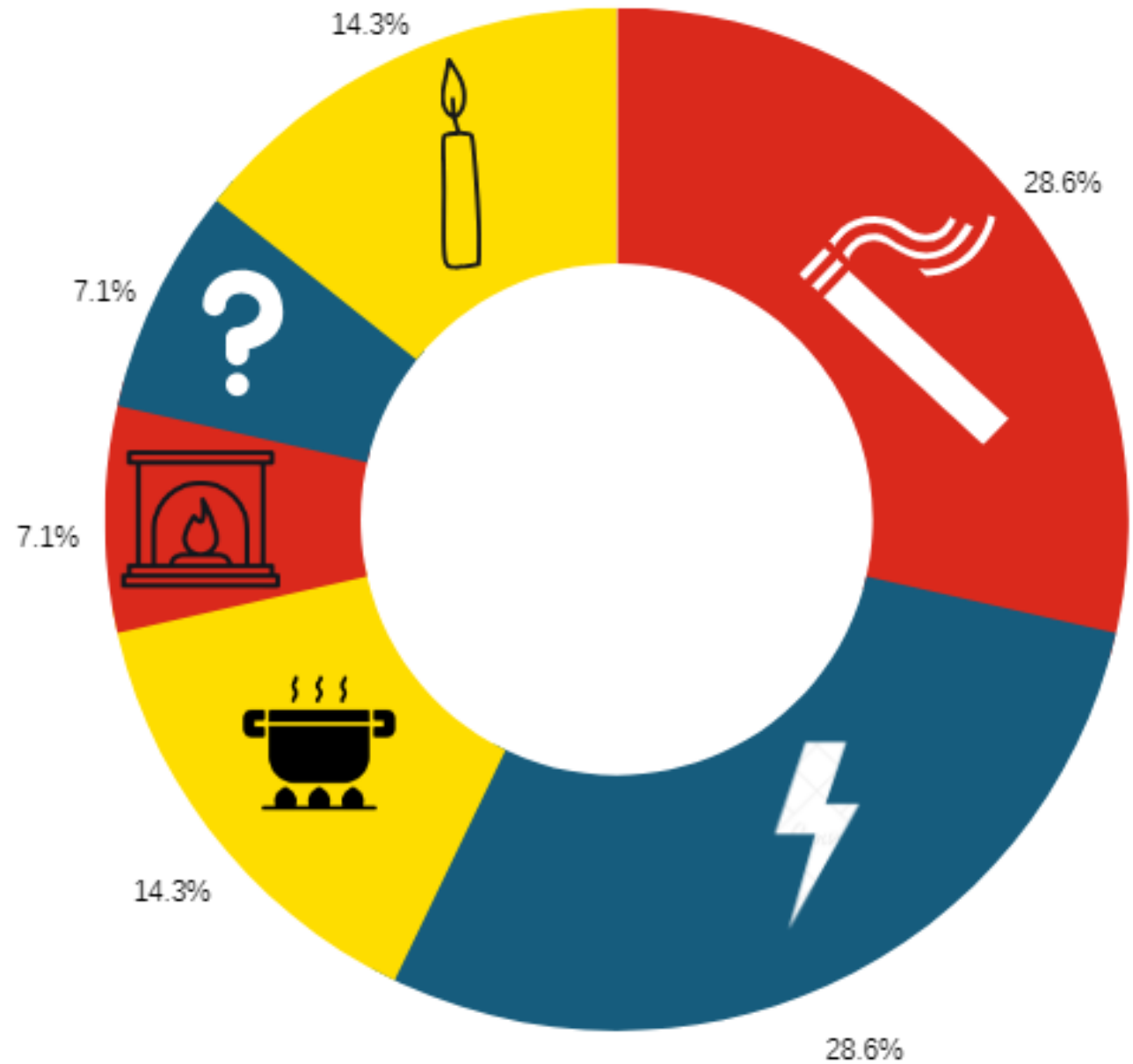
800+ ADFs  
where  
nobody was  
injured





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

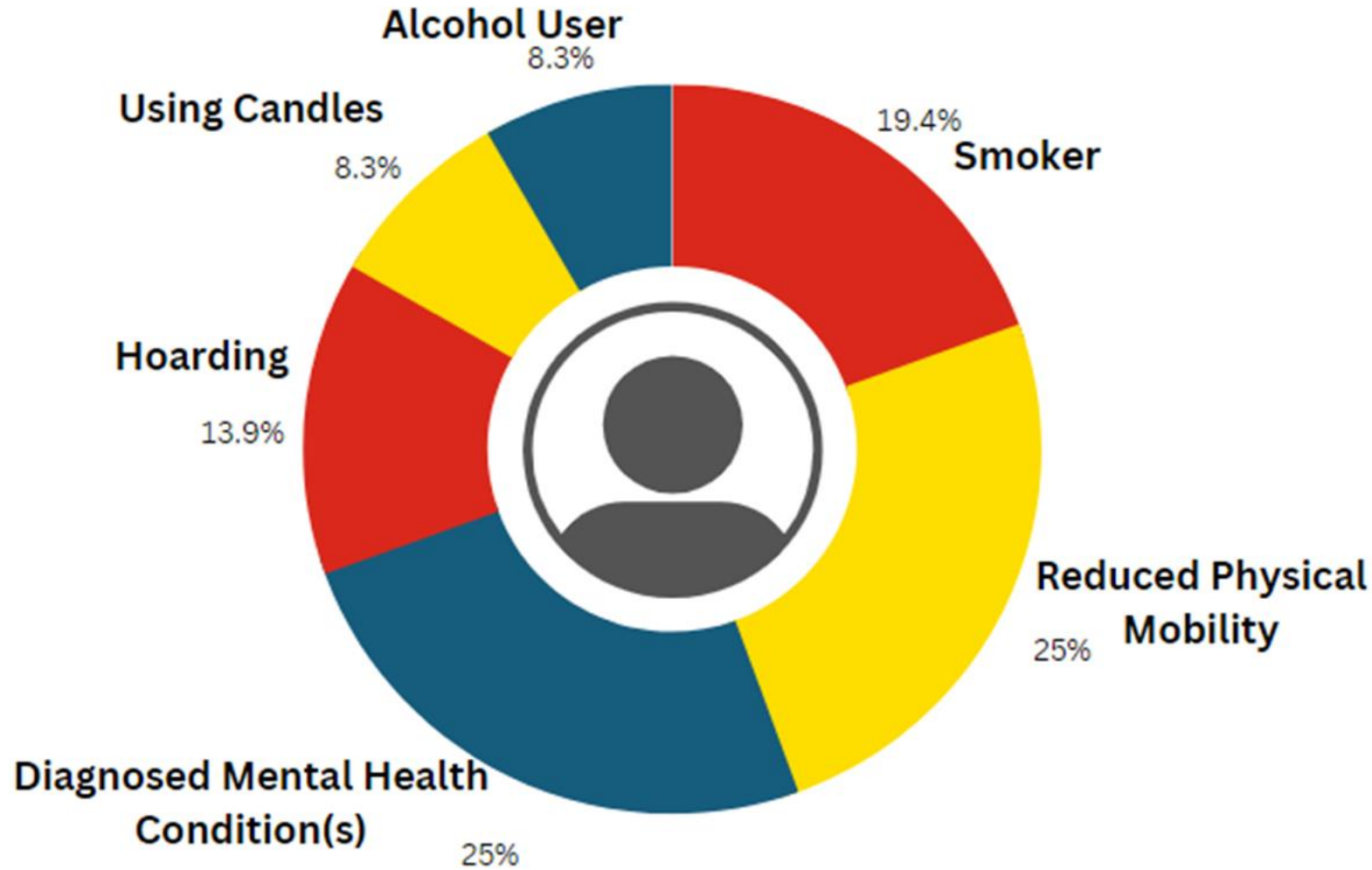
# Causes of Fatal Fires in Essex 2021-2022





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Human Factors

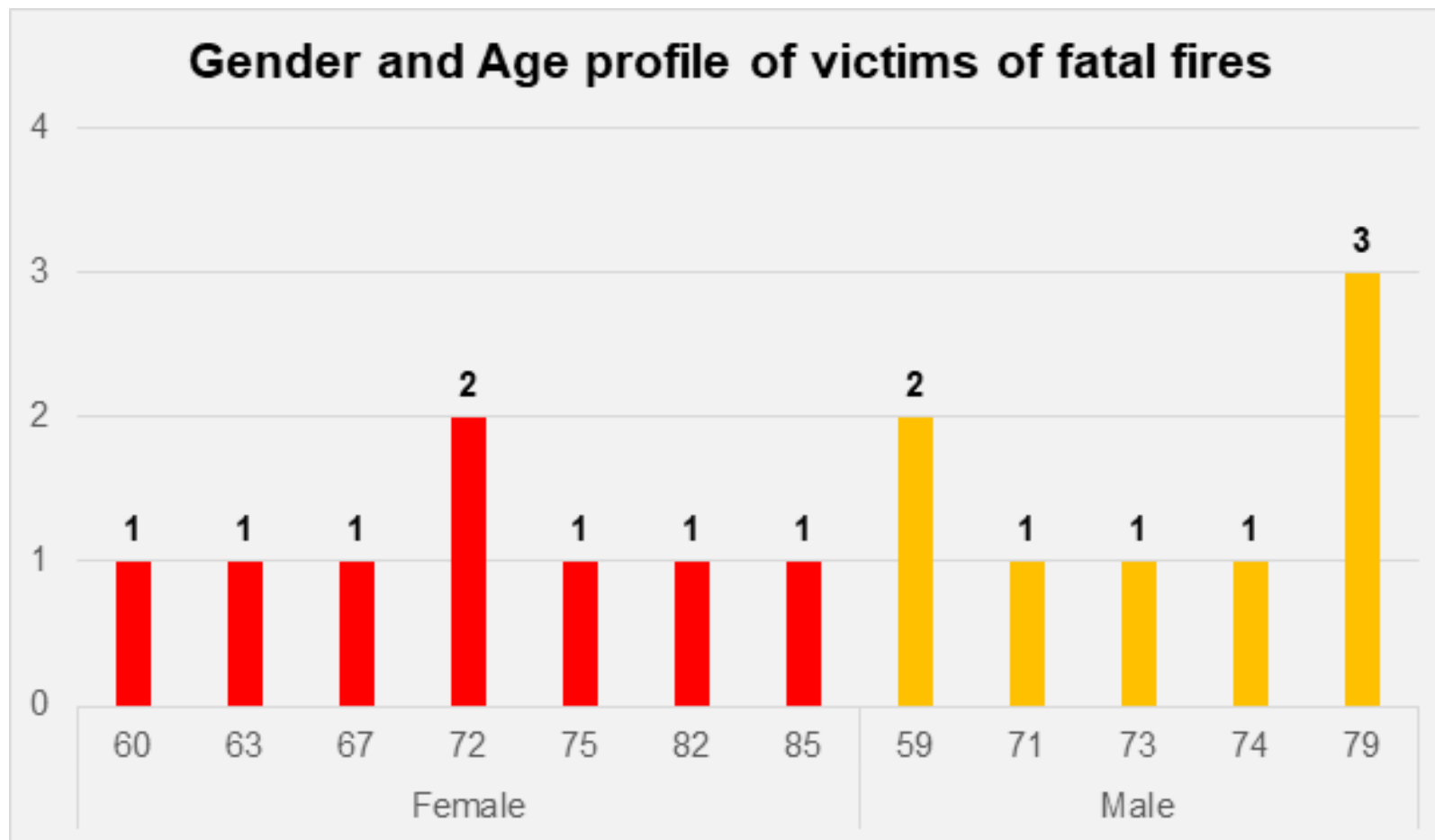




Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

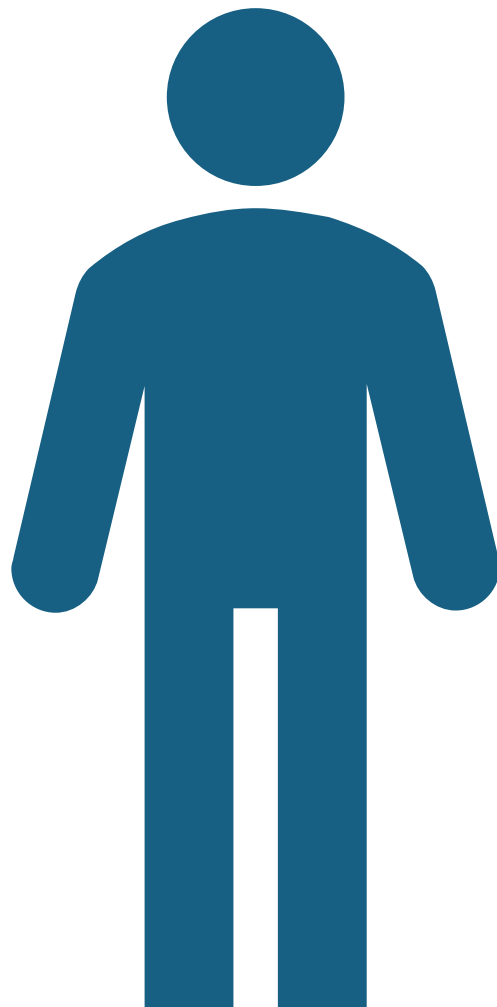
# Age & Gender

- There is no disparity between gender.
- **11 of the 16 victims were over 70**
- **100 per cent of the victims were over 59**





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service



# Lives Alone?

**11** of the 16  
fatalities lived on  
their own





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Key Risk Areas

57%

of the fatalities  
were known to be  
experiencing  
challenges with  
their **mental health  
and wellbeing**

71%

of the fatalities  
were known to be  
experiencing  
challenges with  
their **physical  
health and  
wellbeing**

71%

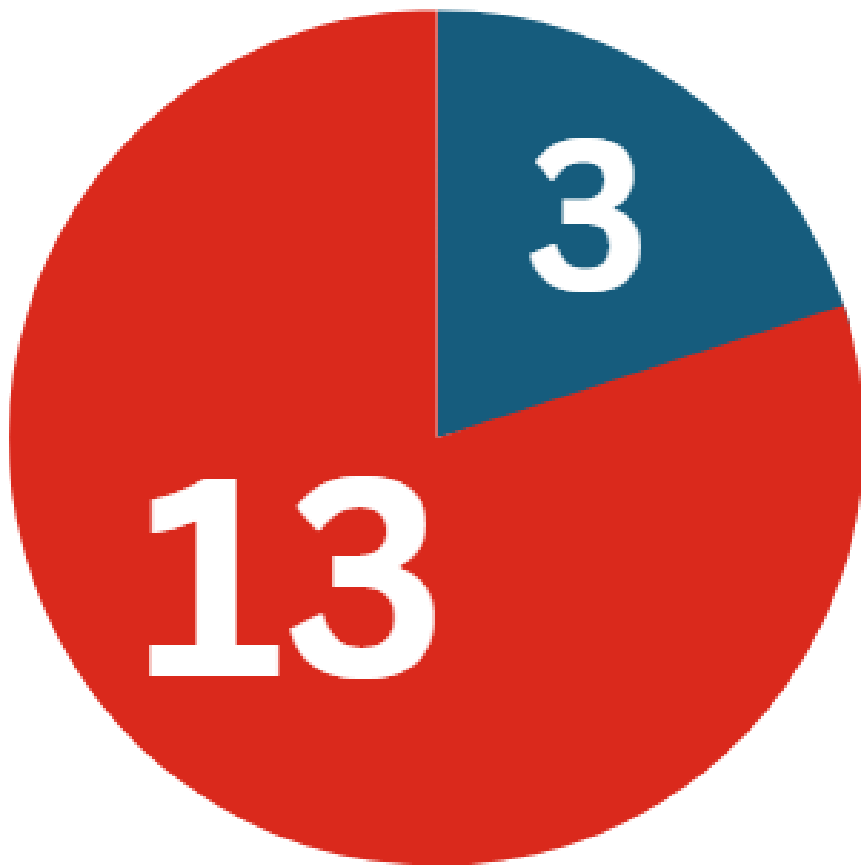
of the fatalities  
were known to be  
experiencing  
challenges with  
their **home  
environment**





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Smoke Alarms



Working smoke alarms were present in only **3** of the 16 fatal fires.

The installation of smoke alarms remains a core component of our prevention work alongside person-centred interventions to support behaviours that reduce the risk of fire occurring and increase a person's chance of safe escape in the event of a fire.



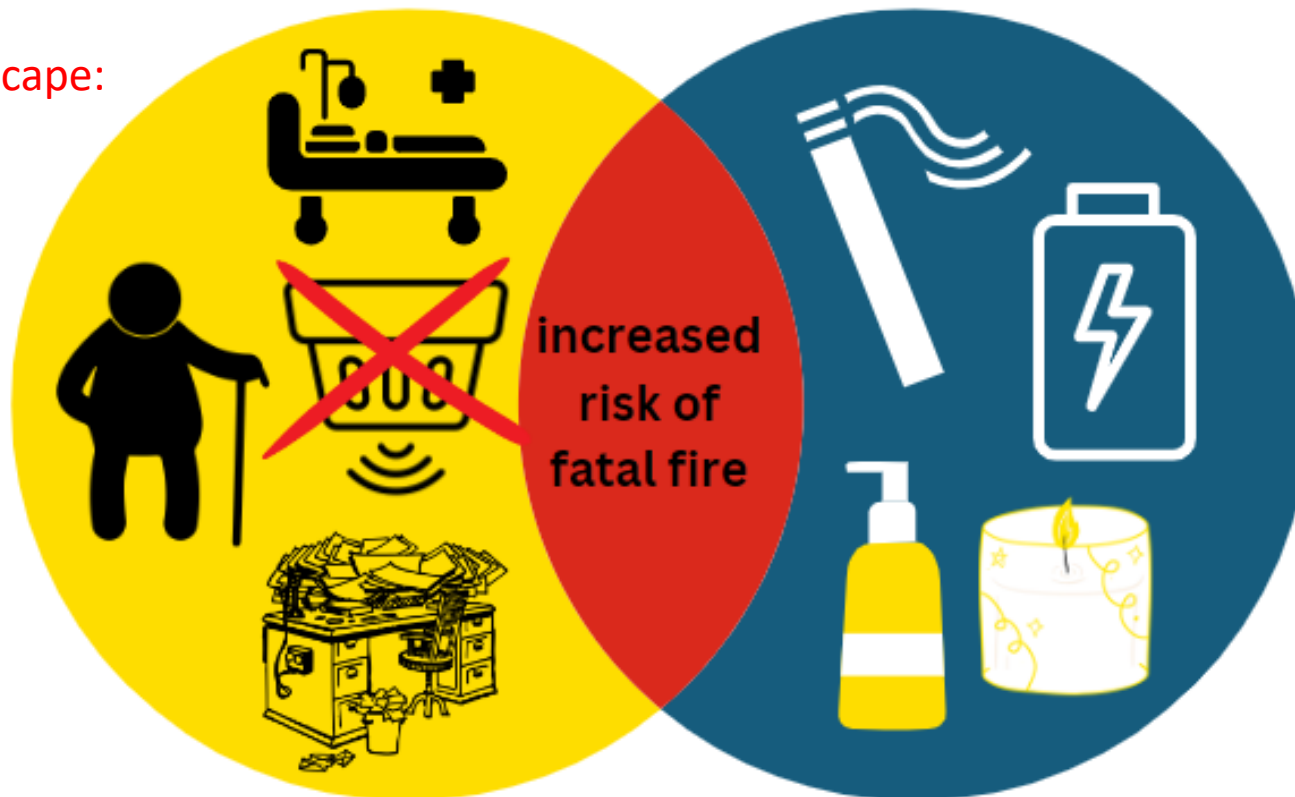


Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

When a person has both an **increased** likelihood of ignition **AND** a **decreased** likelihood escape, there is the **highest** risk of fatality.

Decreased likelihood of escape:

- No working smoke alarm
- Living alone
- Reduced mobility
- Hoarding
- Sensory impairment
- Under the influence:  
medication/drugs/alcohol



Increased likelihood of ignition:

- Medical Equipment inc.
- Oxygen, Airflow Mattress
- Smoking
- Emollient creams
- Candles
- Electrical overload/poor  
maintenance
- Lithium-ion batteries
- Unsafe cooking practices





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Person Centred Home Fire Safety Visit

## 8 Core Components of the Home Fire Safety Visit

- Home Fire Detection and Assistive Technology
- General Fire Safety (candles, cooking and escape planning)
- Electrical Safety
- Fire and Heaters (safer heating)
- Clutter and Hoarding
- Deliberate Fires
- Smoking-related fires
- Medicines and Medical Devices





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# What Essex Fire Can Offer:

- Smoke alarms
- Sensory smoke alarms for the hearing impaired
- Referrals for Assistive Technology
- Advice on home fire safety
- Fire retardant bedding
- Portable Misting Units
- Crime prevention advice
- CO2 alarms
- Onward referrals:
  - Cost of living
  - Loneliness and isolation
  - Aids and adaptations
  - Slipper swap
  - Cooker locking valves
  - Priority Services Register

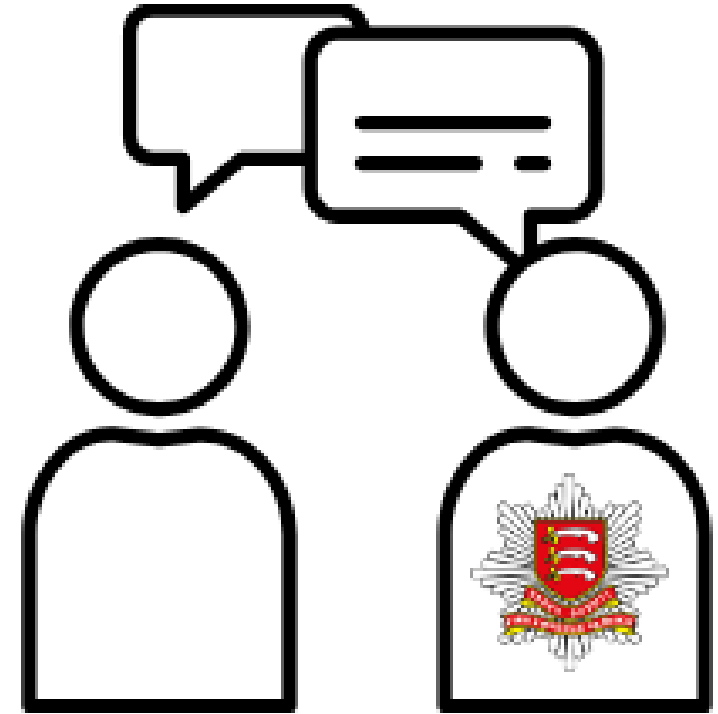




Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Home Fire Safety Training for Carers

## Joint Visits





Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Refer someone for a Home Fire Safety Visit:



[essex-fire.gov.uk/book-home-safety-visit](https://essex-fire.gov.uk/book-home-safety-visit)



**0300 303 0088**

(9.30am - 4pm, or leave a message out  
of hours)



[home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk)

