



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.





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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



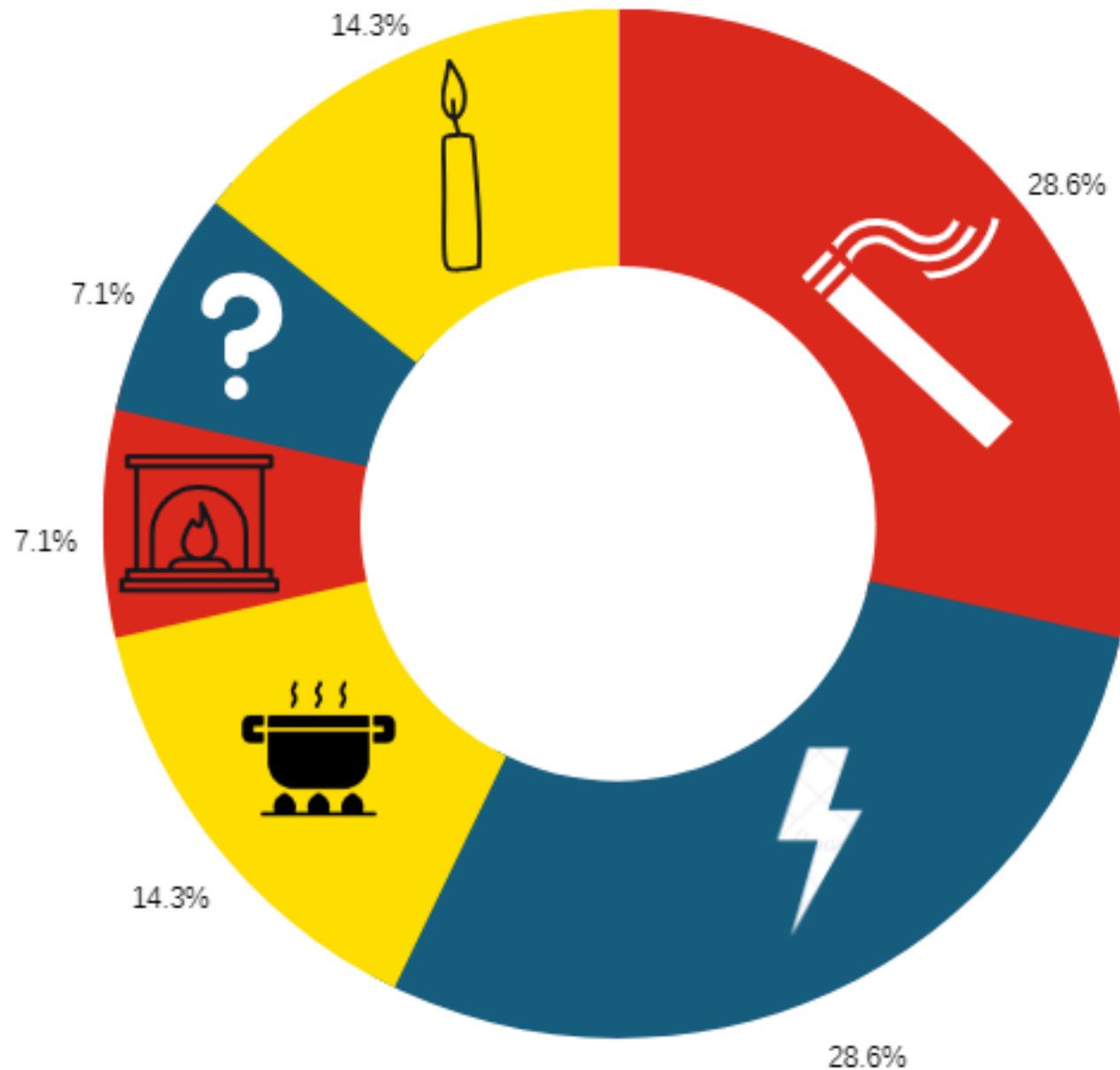
800+ ADFs
where
nobody was
injured





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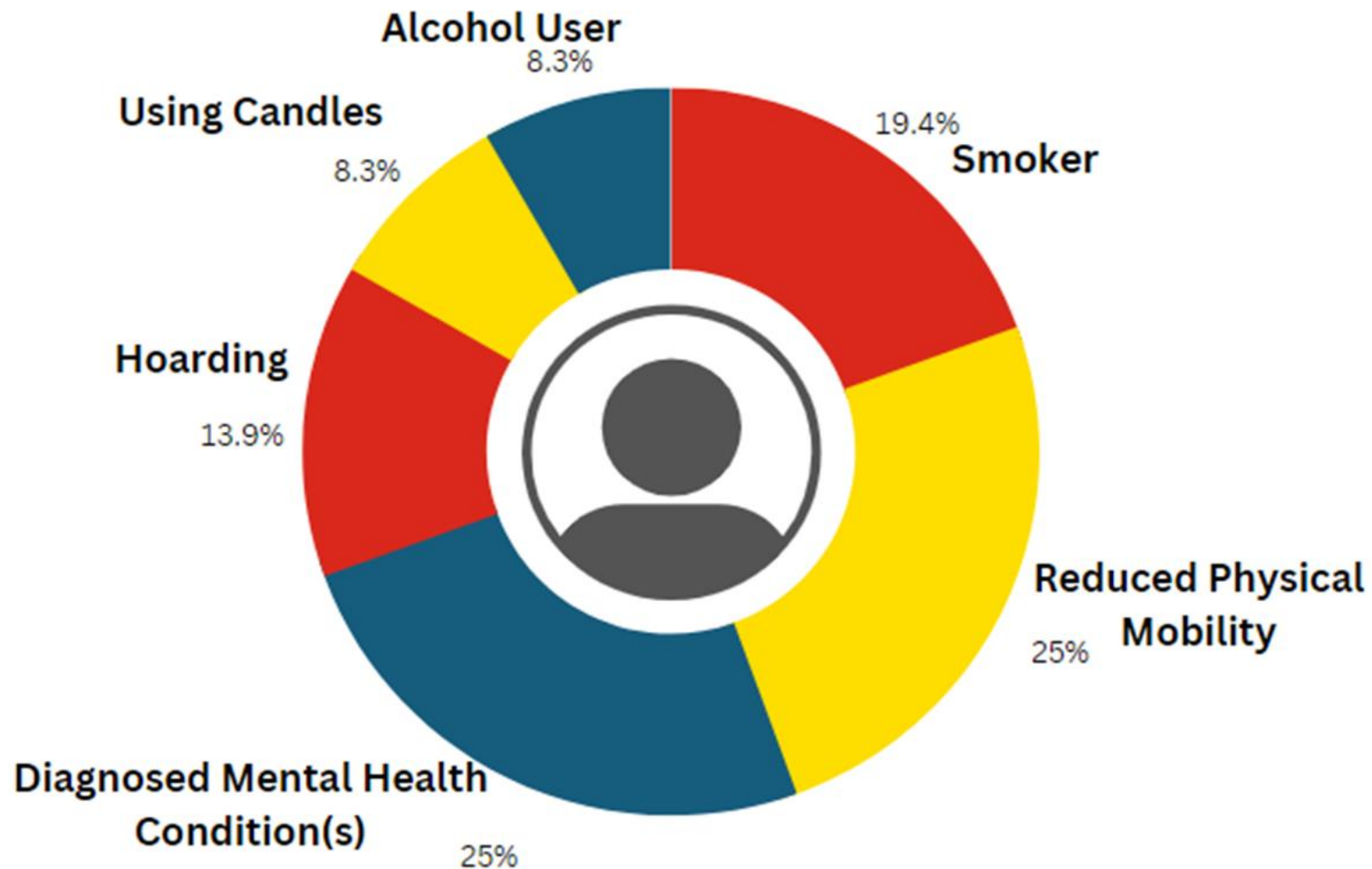
Causes of Fatal Fires in Essex 2021-2022





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Human Factors

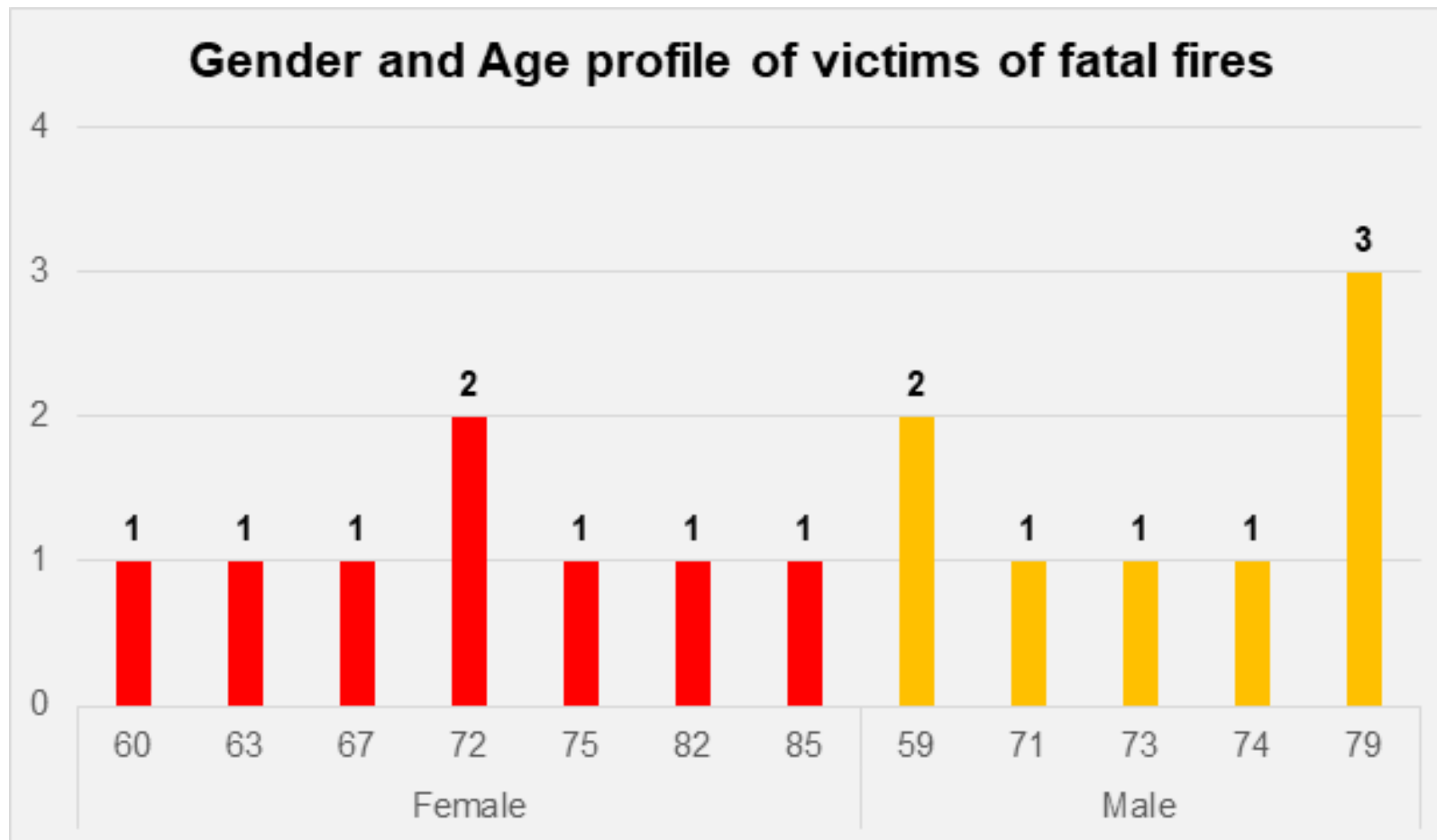




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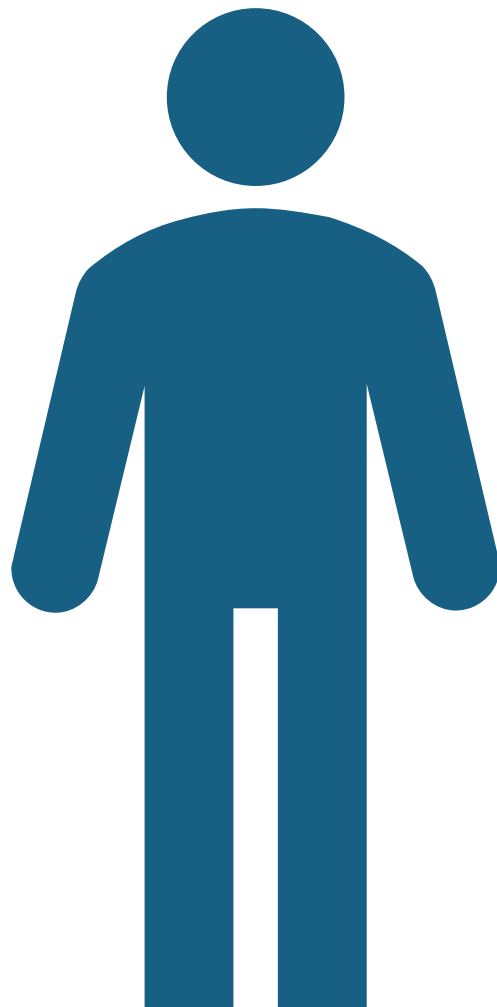
Age & Gender

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





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Lives Alone?

11 of the 16
fatalities lived on
their own





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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%

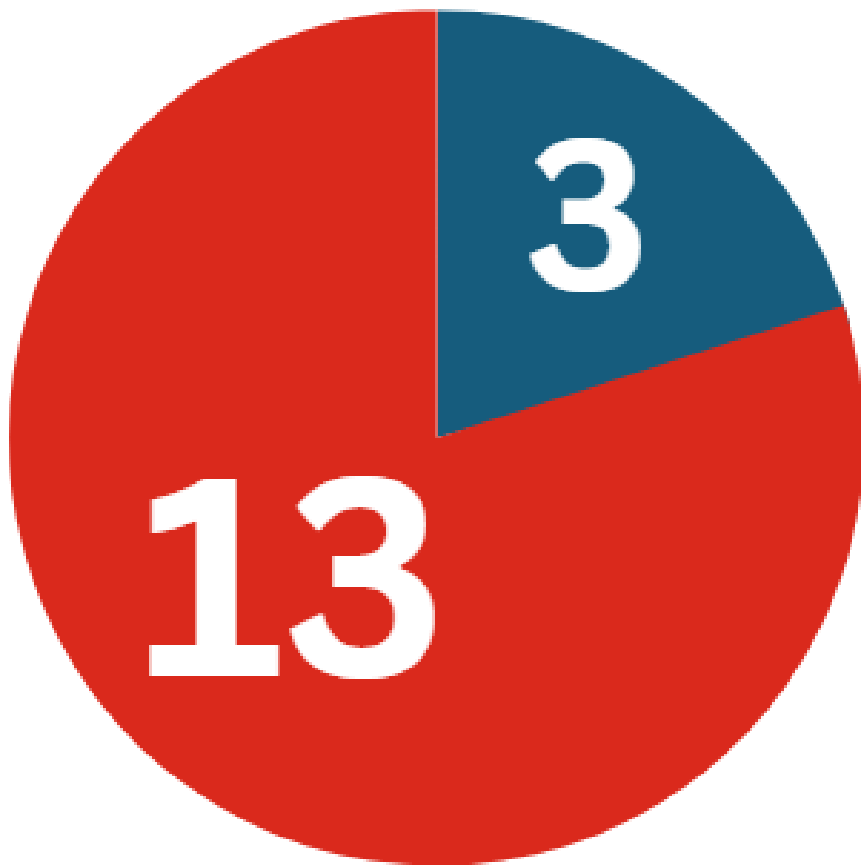
of the fatalities
were known to be
experiencing
challenges with
their **home
environment**





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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.

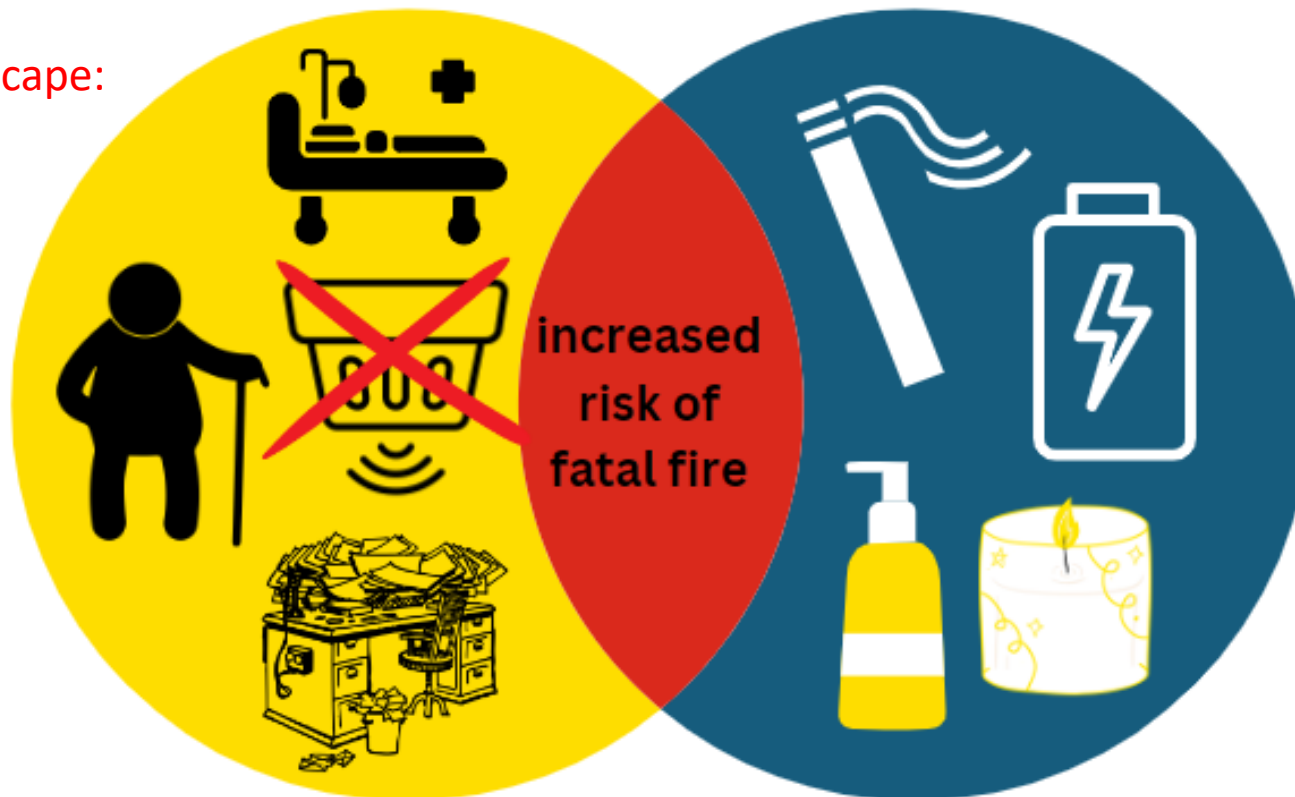


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When a person has both an **increased** likelihood of ignition **AND** a **decreased** likelihood escape, there is the **highest** risk of fatality.

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





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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





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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

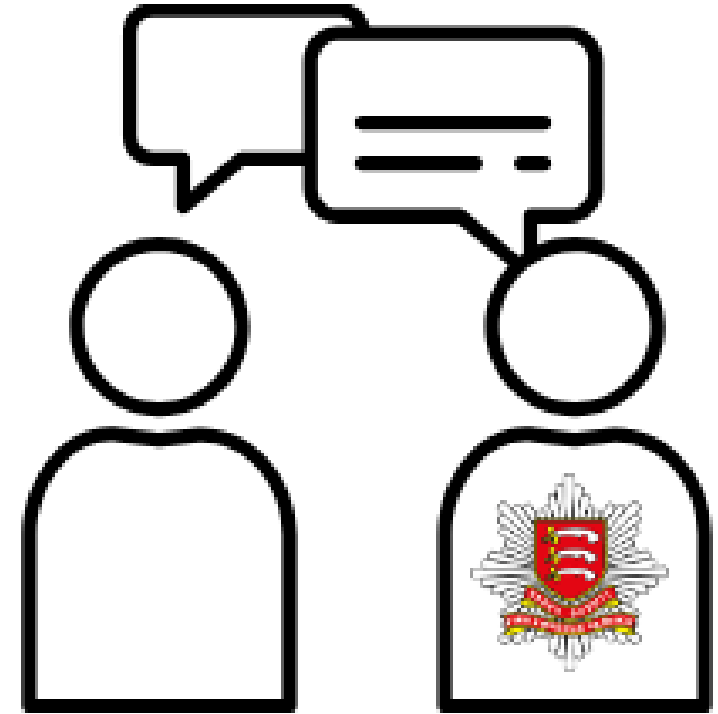




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Home Fire Safety Training for Carers

Joint Visits





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Refer someone for a Home Fire Safety Visit:



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

