

Can you help protect older people from fire?

This winter Hertfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to keep an eye out for older people by helping to spot fire risks in their home.

Although many over 65s are active and healthy, older people are at higher risk of death or injury in a fire, mostly due to age-related problems with mobility and absent mindedness.

It's important to us that we do everything we can to keep older people safe in their own homes, and the friends and families of older people have a key role to play in helping to keep them safe.

There are simple things to look out for

- Not having smoke alarms, or smoke alarms that don't beep when tested
- Overflowing ashtrays, or burn marks on clothing, furniture or carpets
- Smoking in bed
- Hoarding and clutter
- Unsafe use of fire sources open/portable fires
- Frequently leaving cooking unattended
- Unsafe use of candles and other flames
- Overloaded plug sockets

If you see these signs, please let us know. We carry out free Home Fire Safety Visits where we check for potential fire risks, help residents develop an escape plan and can provide expert advice and discuss specialist equipment to help keep vulnerable older people safe, including You can request a visit for yourself or someone you know at www.hertsdirect.org/firesafety or by calling 0300 123 4046.