

Home Care Fire Safety Activity Sheet

Activity 1: Manager Version

Icebreaker - Make a list of the illnesses and disabilities and how you think they could add to making an adult vulnerable to risk of a fire?

Physical disability effecting mobility:

- This can affect their ability to escape from a property in the instance of a fire.

Sensory Impairment:

- Visual impairments may affect an individual's ability to escape from a property in the instance of a fire and in some instances alert the authorities.
- Hearing impairments may affect an individual's ability to hear a smoke alarm sounding and safely respond. Many people remove hearing aids at night which increases the risk.

Learning Disabilities:

- If a person is unable to recognise dangerous fire behaviour or activity as a risk, they are more vulnerable.

Oxygen Users:

- Oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and to burn more rapidly. Alcohol and/or drug dependency:
- Being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol can hinder or delay one's response to an emergency situation, it can also result in someone becoming unconscious and therefore losing their ability to respond and/or escape.

Mental Ill Health:

- People with mental health issues are proven to be at greater risk of having fires in their homes. In the event of a fire their cognitive ability may prevent them from understanding the immediate need to escape and/or call 999. Skin problems including eczema, ichthyosis, and psoriasis that require use of emollients:
- Paraffin based emollient creams used for skin conditions are highly flammable. Even freshly washed clothes, bedding and linen can still be soaked in emollient creams increasing flammability.

Dementia:

- Dementia is a decline in cognitive function meaning that people living with dementia may forget that they've left cooking on, candles and cigarettes lit and may become confused in the instance of an actuated smoke alarm.

Long-term health conditions:

- Physical health conditions are often seen as a common risk factor as conditions including multiple sclerosis and cancer may inhibit or prolong response to fire alarms and in turn the evacuation process.



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Activity 2: Manager Version

In addition to their personal vulnerabilities, in small groups can you come up with any further specific external risks which could cause a fire?

- Home oxygen supplies
- Air flow mattress
- Emollient cream
- Hoarding and clutter
- Drug and Alcohol Use
- Smoking indoors carelessly
- Electrical Faults
- Unsafe use of candles



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Activity 3: Manager Version

What Issues Would An Individual's Level of Vulnerability Cause in the Event of a Fire?

In small groups discuss the following questions:

If a service user had a working smoke detector in the correct location, would their physical or cognitive health hinder them in taking the right course of action?

- Yes, any of the following issues could hinder a service user from taking the correct course of action, which should be to leave the property and call 999 immediately. If someone is bed or chair managed and is alone with no means of escape then calling 999 should be the priority, in this instance Careline should be in place.
 - Dementia
 - Limited mobility or frailty
 - Sensory Impairments
 - Drug or Alcohol Dependency
 - Learning Disability
 - Mental Ill Health
 - Physical Health Conditions

Would they be able to hear their smoke detector?

- If the smoke alarm is sighted correctly then generally residents should be able to hear the alarm, however the following issues could hinder this:
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Mental Ill Health
 - Deep Sleeping
 - Intoxication

If they are taking medication, will this impact on their alertness and ability to escape?

- Yes, this could result in a person being less responsive or at a higher risk of injury due to impact on motor skills.

Feedback your key points – highlight any service users who may be at risk.

