



FIRE SAFETY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2022

Think fire safety when saving money on your energy bills

Source: Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority

www.dsfire.gov.uk/news/think-fire-safety-when-saving-money-your-energy-bills

As the weather starts to get cooler, we are asking you to think about fire safety when saving money on your energy bills. We are concerned that people may put themselves at additional risk as the cost of living increases. As part of a new campaign called 'save safely', we are asking people to think now about preparing for winter, by doing three checks. Exeter Homes Trust has taken this from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.

1. Exeter Homes Trust checks your smoke and carbon monoxide detection

Your home should have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, and a carbon monoxide alarm in every room where fuel is burned (this includes gas cookers, open fires, and log burners).

Read tips on choosing, installing, and maintaining smoke alarms (including frequently changing the battery):

www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/home/smoke-alarms



2. If you're going to use a portable heater – check it over first

Portable heaters are a good way to heat small spaces when you don't need to heat the whole house. But what do we need to consider about portable heaters and fire safety? Heaters can be a serious fire hazard, especially when not used carefully.

Check for damaged wiring. If something doesn't look right, dispose of it, or get it checked by a professional. An oil-filled radiator is the safest type of heater as they don't have any exposed heating elements.

DSFR listed their top dos and don'ts when using heaters, as well as some advice specific to different types of electric and gas heaters:

www.dsfire.gov.uk/news/heater-safety



3. Complete an online fire safety check

DSFR's website have shared a simple online check of your home to help you be safer from the risk of fire. The check will take around 15 minutes:

www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/home/online-home-safety-check

If you're vulnerable or need more help, we can come and visit your home to have a look around – this online check will start this process.

If you don't have internet access or you'd prefer to phone us, you can call us on

0800 05 02 999

As a Resident of Exeter Homes Trust, if you encounter an emergency situation or what you perceive to be an unlawful incident in or around your home or Almshouse estate, please phone 999 in the first instance.

Exeter Homes Trust does not provide support or extra care services.

The Exeter Homes Trust phone number 01392 421162 is switched through automatically to KS Engineering Ltd (EHT's mechanical & electrical services contractor) between 17:00 hours and 09:00 hours and weekends and bank holidays. This arrangement has been in place since Autumn 2014. This service was available throughout the COVID-19 Emergency and is a valuable resource for residents.

“ We know this winter is going to be really tough for everyone. Every winter we see people making unsafe choices to stay warm, but we are worried this is going to be worse this year.

We've previously encountered fires resulting from people using old or damaged heaters, drying washing on heaters, or using candles. We've also had people using patio stoves indoors in a desperate attempt to stay warm. We know people are going to have tough choices to make due to finances, but we want people to make safety their first thought when it comes to saving money.

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