

Forming a Partnership with Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) are committed to improving community safety to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries in the home. As part of this commitment, we carry out Home Safety Visits to those that need us the most. A visit can be arranged through self-referral or a referral from a Partner Agency.

Partner Agencies are organisations which have undertaken our free Trigger Point Awareness (TPA) sessions to enable a faster referral process; Partners are provided with a unique referral code and are then able to bypass the eligibility screening process using this referral code. TPA sessions can be in the workplace or virtual, and it takes approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. We will cover what a Home Safety Visit is, why we offer the service, equipment we provide and how to refer.

The 7 risk factors we have identified being present in most property fires are:

- Mental Health
- Poor Housekeeping (clutter/hoarding/blocked exits)
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Drugs (Illegal/Prescription)
- Limited Mobility
- Living Alone

With the above groups our partners can often think of people they support, and some will have more than 1 risk factor. Through essential partnership working partners help us reach vulnerable people and together we can help to keep them safer.

When a referral is made, a Home Safety Technician will carry out a free Home Safety Visit and will be able to assess the degree of risk the person or family is facing, taking the appropriate action to reduce the risks and help prevent a fire or incident. This can include the fitting of a smoke alarm or hard of hearing alarm (for those with hearing loss), supplying fire retardant throws and/or bedding amongst other specialist equipment as well as advising the occupants on safe escape routes and what to do in the event of a fire. It can also be arranged that a confirmation email is sent out to a set email address, so partner agencies can receive notification that a visit referred by them has been completed.

All services relating to Home Safety visits are provided completely free of charge.

For more information, please contact Sarah House – Partnerships & Engagement for Somerset
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