

We should all know how easily a fire can start and it is a good idea now to pay extra attention to the frequent causes of fire.

Our homes are the places where we should feel safe. Here are **8** practical tips to help you keep your home, and your family, fire safe:

1. Escape:

- Make sure you know how to get out of your home if there is a fire – and that everyone in your home knows as well. Plan your escape route.
- Make sure exits are always kept clear.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone in the house can find them.

2. Early warning:

- Check your smoke alarms now, and change the batteries if necessary.

3. Smoking:

- Stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully. Keep lighters and matches away from children.

4. Candles:

- Put candles out, using a snuffer or a spoon, it's safer than blowing them out when sparks can fly.

5. Cooking:

- Double check the cooker off, after use and before going to bed.

6. Heating:

- Turn heaters off when you go out and put up fireguards.

7. Electrical appliances:

- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances, unless they are designed to be left on – like your fridge. Have a 'fire safe' night time routine.

8. Fire spread:

Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading.

Passing this advice on to your family, friends and neighbours will help keep them safer during any period of reduced fire cover – and is good advice at all times.