

Cleveland Fire Brigade's Home Fire Safety Check Initiative

It's a sad fact that the majority of fire deaths and injuries occur in the home. A great majority of these fires are accidental and therefore preventable. In general these fire incidents within the home stem from a lack of knowledge and understanding by the householder, of the hazards and dangers from fire. To try to reduce the number of domestic fires, Cleveland Fire Brigade is currently carrying out Home Fire Safety Checks throughout the Cleveland area.

What is a Home Fire Safety Check? A Home Fire Safety Check involves a visit from you local firefighters to your home which usually lasts between 20 and 30 minutes. During the visit the firefighters will give you advice on basic fire safety in the home and the things you can do to prevent a fire happening in your home, and help you make a fire plan to escape if you do have a fire. The firefighters will then fit smoke alarms for you if you need them, or put new 5 year batteries in your old smoke alarms if necessary.

Who can have a Home Fire Safety Check? Anyone who lives in the Cleveland Fire Brigade area, which covers the council areas of Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland can request a Home Fire Safety Check. Regardless of age, income, gender, ethnicity, employment etc. It is our aim to carry out a Home Fire Safety Check in every home in Cleveland within the next 5 years.

How much does a Home Fire Safety Check cost? Believe it or not, the Home Fire Safety Check including any smoke alarms and batteries that are installed is completely **FREE OF CHARGE!!**

How can I arrange a Home Fire Safety Check for my house? Simply ring **01429 874063** anytime and leave your name, address (including your postcode if you know it), telephone number, and someone from Cleveland Fire Brigade will then arrange a convenient time for our firefighters to visit your home. Alternatively you can contact your local Fire Station to arrange a visit.

What if I work during the day? Don't worry. We can arrange the visit for an evening or at the weekend, or whenever it is most convenient for you. We have even carried out a Home Fire Safety Check on Christmas Day, so don't worry we will find a suitable time for you.

I have a friend or a relative who could do with a Home Fire Safety Check. Can I pass their details on to the Fire Brigade? If they live in Cleveland then yes you can pass their details to us, either by telephoning **01429 874063** or contacting your local Fire Station. However, you must get their permission first and let them know what you are doing. The Fire Brigade cannot enter someone's house to fit smoke alarms without the consent of the occupier, so we need their consent before we visit.

I already have a smoke alarm so I don't really need a Home Fire Safety Check, do I? Yes you do! Remember that a smoke alarm is only there to warn you and help you escape if you have a fire. Its much better to prevent a fire in the first place, and the advice you will receive from your local professional firefighters will reduce the risk of have a fire in your home. They will also check your some alarms to make sure that they are in good working order.