

# Home Sweet Home?



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Your home really means a lot to you. That's why you work so hard to make it just how you want it. That's why you're so careful to lock the door when you go out.

But your home is more at risk than you realise. Did you know that you're more likely to have a fire than to have your house broken into?

- Fire doesn't need a key.
- Fire doesn't care how precious your home is to you.
- And after a fire, you won't recognise the wreckage that was your home.

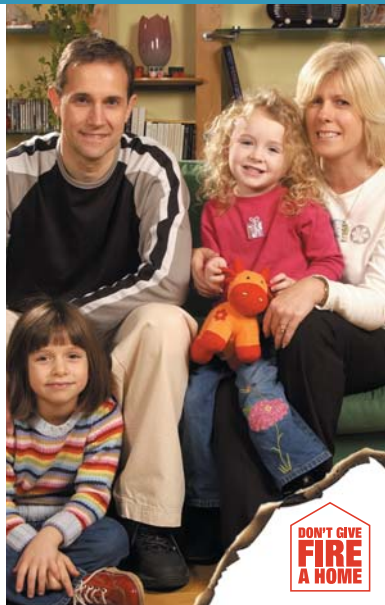
## Where to get advice



Visit [www.dontgivefireahome.com](http://www.dontgivefireahome.com) for practical fire safety advice.

Talk to your local firefighters. They'd rather call round to talk to you about preventing a fire than be called out to extinguish a blaze. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

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## Safe as houses?

Think fire can't touch you? Think you've got it covered? You're not alone – 3 out of every 4 Scots believe their home isn't at risk from fire.

But did you know that ...

- you're twice as likely to die in a house fire in Scotland than in any other part of the UK?
- there are around 63,000 house fires in the UK every year?
- around 500 people are killed in house fires every year and around 14,000 people are injured?

Ordinary people, just like you. Maybe they never gave fire a second thought either ... until it was too late.

Still think you've got it covered? Because it's often when you're busy – or just not thinking – that fire takes hold ... and takes a life.

## Did you know...?

Nearly 1 in every 4 house fires is caused by accidents while cooking?

- do you take extra care when you're busy in the kitchen?
- do you take special care when you're tired or when you've been drinking alcohol?

Nearly 4 in every 10 deaths in house fires are caused by people being careless with cigarettes and matches? And that many fires are started by children playing with matches and lighters left lying around the house?

- are you always careful with cigarettes? Do you always empty your ashtray? Do you know where your matches and lighter are right now?



## Be smart about your home

Your home really means a lot to you. So be smart. It only takes a few simple steps to make sure you don't give fire a home. Think about it today – tomorrow could be too late.

### **Buy a smoke alarm.**

They cost around £5 to £8, and they're neat and unobtrusive.

### **Use a thermostat-controlled deep-fat fryer.**

The safety cut-out device controls the temperature to stop the oil or fat overheating.

### **Be careful with electrical appliances.**

Switch off and unplug appliances like TVs, washing machines and tumble driers that aren't designed to be left switched on. Use the right fuse. Don't overload sockets. Don't run cables under carpets.

### **Be really careful if you're smoking when you're tired, or drinking alcohol**

Don't just stub out your cigarette, empty the ashtray. Pour water over cigarette ends before putting them in the bin outside.

### **Think about how you would get out of the house if you do have a fire.**

You don't need to be an expert to make an escape plan. Just think it through. Then tell everyone what the plan is. Always remember the golden rule – get out and stay out. Phone the fire brigade.