

## THE FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

The Fund was set up during World War II as a direct result of the need for an organisation which would speedily mitigate, at least in some degree, the inevitable distress and hardship suffered by members of the Fire Services and their dependants. Thus the concept of a "friend in need" was born and continues to the present day.

One of the tenets of the Fund is that it is run "by firemen, for firemen and is of firemen", and that is the reason for its lasting success. Station representatives who are at the grass roots, are urged that their duties are twofold, to collect funds and to dispense charity where it is needed. Thus it is often not so much the fiscal support which the Fund dispenses but the human contact which the representatives bring to the needy in their hours of distress. Equally the Funds officials are drawn from a complete cross section through the ranks and business meetings are conducted on the pure basis of a true charity.

In 1954 the Fund was graced by the patronage of Her Majesty The Queen. Year by year its activities are widened to meet the ever changing needs of a modern society. All the work is done by volunteers except for a small staff of permanent officials at Headquarters which means that an extremely high proportion of donations received is spent on charitable work. Please support their efforts.

C.G. Durrant  
Chairman - Oxfordshire Area  
Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

# OXFORDSHIRE FIRE SERVICE







It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to speak with you, my reader. One of the difficulties which face Chief Officers of County wide services is that they can all too easily lose touch with the public they serve. This can also apply to my organisation which by its very nature should be local to the communities served by each of the 24 fire stations.

The purpose of this little book is to make you aware of your local fire service, the more general facilities and special equipment which can be deployed to meet any contingency in the County, and finally to offer you some good commonsense fire prevention advice.

The booklet is being distributed during Fire Safety Week - 1984 when our Theme is "Fire Costs Lives". The past year has seen some unfortunate fatalities and two of the most serious fires we have had in the past decade. One of these was in a public, that is to say one of "our" buildings, and am sorry that we in the Fire Service were unable to prevent it. To do so needs your support and interest and I commend this publication to you to further that objective.

C.G. Durrant M.B.E. G.I.FirE.  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER.

## OXFORDSHIRE FIRE SERVICE

Oxfordshire Fire Service was formed in 1974 by the amalgamation of the former Oxfordshire County Fire Service, Oxford City Fire Brigade, and part of Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade.

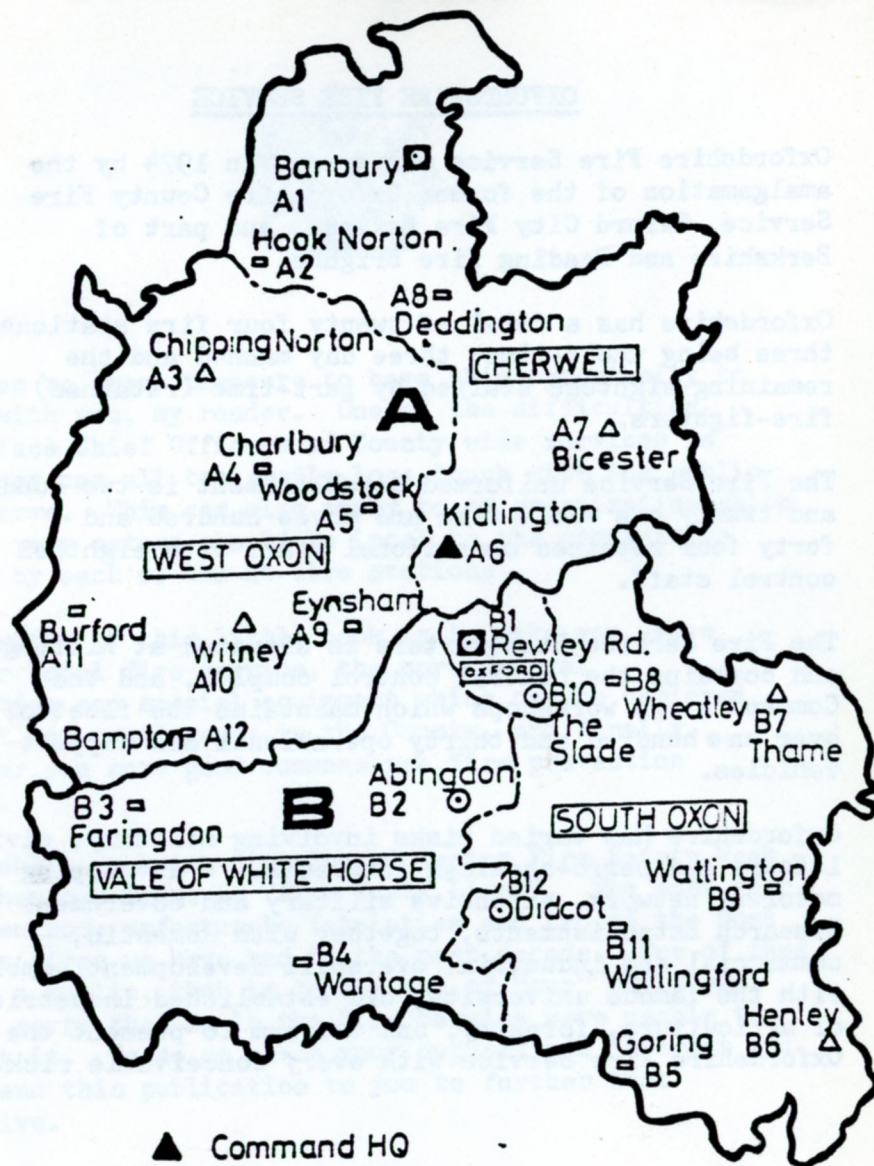
Oxfordshire has a total of twenty four fire stations, three being whole-time, three day manned and the remaining eighteen staffed by part-time (retained) fire-fighters.

The Fire Service uniformed establishment is two hundred and twenty one whole-time and three hundred and forty four retained operational staff with eighteen control staff.

The Fire Service Headquarters is situated at Kidlington and contains the central control complex, and the Command's own workshops which maintains the fleet of over one hundred and thirty operational and support vehicles.

Oxfordshire has varied risks involving military, civil, leisure and petro-chemical interests. A developing motorway network, extensive military and Government Research Establishments, together with domestic, commercial and industrial overspill development combine with the famous university, old established industries of agriculture, forestry, and tourism to present the Oxfordshire Fire Service with every conceivable risk.





- ▲ Command HQ
- ◻ Divisional HQ Station
- ⊙ Whole time station
- = 1 pump retained station
- △ 2 pump retained station
- Divisional boundary
- - - District council boundary



Oxfordshire Fire Service Headquarters  
Sterling Road,  
Kidlington,  
Oxford, OX5 2DU

Telephone: Kidlington (08675) 4211

Area: 260,782 Hectares Pop. (600,000 approx)

Budget: 1983/4 £4,228,300

Rateable Value: (Actual 1.4-82) 82,094,326

Fire Calls: (1983) 5597

Fire Protection Assignments (1983) 8378

Personnel: 221 Wholetime 344 Retained

18 Fire Control

#### HEADQUARTERS

Chief Fire Officer  
Deputy Chief Fire Officer  
Third Officer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
General Staff Officer  
G.S.O. II (Training)  
G.S.O. III (Senior F.P. Officer)  
G.S.O. IV (Safety Officer)  
G.S.O. V (Communications)  
G.S.O. VI (Control)  
Project Officer  
Staff Junior Officer  
Fire Protection Officers

C.G. Durrant MBE GIFireE  
G.M. Smith MIFireE (ACFO)  
T.M. Percy MIFireE (SDO)  
G.W. Cummings DMA  
I.R. Smith MIFireE  
G.T. Jones MIFireE  
P.E. Coupland GIFireE  
M.B. Green MIFireE  
S. Daker  
Mrs. A. Sadler  
A. Judd  
F. Eckersley  
E. Hubbard  
A.R. Coppock  
I.L. Kelly  
R. Molson  
G.B. Williams  
J.R. Plumb AMIRTE  
C. Peasley

Workshop Manager  
Workshop Foreman



## 'A' DIVISION

'A' Divisional Headquarters  
Cope Road,  
BANBURY,  
OX16 7EH.

Telephone: Banbury (0295) 56035

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER	M.H.Lloyd
Deputy Divisional Commander	D.K.Clarkson
Divisional Senior Fire Protection Officer	J. Bond
Divisional Staff/ Training Officer	R.J. Burn
Cherwell District Area Fire Protection Officers	G.H. Brown J. Pratley F.A. Carey I. Bayley

Divisional Staff/  
Training (Junior Officer)

G.Macleod

West Oxford District Area  
Fire Protection Officers  
Telephone: Witney 2273

B. Frost  
J. Cassidy

### WHOLETIME STATIONS

Banbury Fire Station Telephone : Banbury 56035  
Officer-in-Charge R. Bryan

Kidlington Fire Station Telephone: Kidlington 4211  
Officer-in-Charge A. Hewlett

### RETAINED STATIONS

A2	Hook Norton	Sub. Officer Clarke
A3	Chipping Norton	Station Officer Morris
A4	Charlbury	Sub. Officer Wixey
A5	Woodstock	Sub. Officer Williams
A7	Bicester	Station Officer Palmer
A8	Deddington	Sub. Officer Humphries
A9	Eynsham	Sub. Officer Evans
A10	Witney	Station Officer Godfrey
A11	Burford	Sub. Officer Williams
A12	Bampton	Sub. Officer Papworth

## 'B' DIVISION

'B' Divisional Headquarters  
Rewley Road,  
Oxford.  
OX1 2EH

Telephone: Oxford 242223

Divisional Commander	A. Hughes
Deputy Divisional Commander	J.D. Carver
Divisional Senior Fire Protection Officer	B. Orton
Divisional Staff/ Training Officer	J.P. Tweney
Assistant Divisional Fire Protection Officer	C.G. Crouch
Fire Protection Officers	P. Rosum D.R. Brown S.J. Smith W.J. Miller J.C. Simmonds P.I. Huckin M. Newton D.J. Bates M. Crapper C. Ward B. Hesler

Divisional Staff/ Training  
(Junior Officer)  
Vale of White Horse Area  
Fire Protection Officer  
Telephone: Abingdon 23822

R.J. Bowley  
A.M. Morris

South Oxfordshire District Area  
Fire Protection Officer  
Telephone: Wallingford 37212

C. Hendry

### WHOLETIME STATIONS

B1 Rewley Road, Fire Station.	Telephone: Oxford 242223
Officer in Charge	P. Owen-Smith
B2 Abingdon Fire Station.	Telephone Abingdon 23822
Officer in Charge	C.E. Kear



B10 SLADE PARK FIRE STATION TELEPHONE OX 772083  
OFFICER IN CHARGE G. KERSHAW

B12 DIDCOT FIRE STATION TELEPHONE DIDCOT 812826  
J. L. SWALE  
O.I.C.

RETAINED STATIONS

B3 FARINGDON STATION OFFICER WOOLFORD

B4 WANTAGE SUB OFFICER HERMAN

B5 GORING SUB OFFICER WILKINS

B6 HENLEY STATION OFFICER GOSBY

B7 THAME STATION OFFICER COOPER

B8 WHEATLEY SUB OFFICER GUY

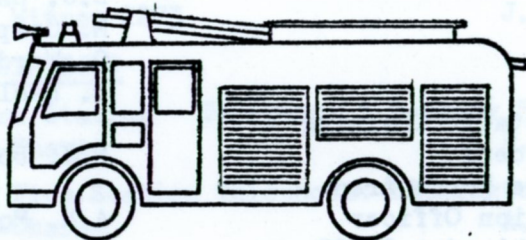
B9 WATLINGTON SUB OFFICER ADMANS

B11 WALLINGFORD SUB OFFICER RUMBLE

#### APPLIANCES

Oxfordshire is equipped with a fleet of modern fire fighting vehicles the most widely used being the easily recognised "Fire Engine" this is available in two forms either as a water tender carrying 10.5m (35ft) ladder or as a water ladder carrying, the modern equivalent to the wheeled escape, a light alloy 13.5m (45ft) ladder.

#### THE WATER TENDER/LADDER

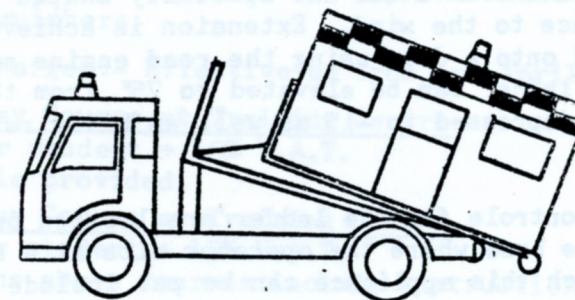


These appliances are manned by a crew of at least four men and one or the other attend all calls dependent upon the specific needs of the emergency. Fitted centrally is a 1800 litre (400 gall) water tank connected to a major pump situated at the rear and driven by the road engine, for small fires water is supplied through to easily run out hose reels.

Larger fires requiring more water use 45mm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in) or 70mm (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in) hoses coupled via instantaneous couplings directly to the pump. The tank supply, which could be discharged in less than a minute has to be supplemented using street hydrants or open water, a small portable pump is also carried that can be used to supply water to the appliance over the large distances encountered in a rural environment.

In lockers along the sides is the equipment necessary for not only pumping water but the many other tasks carried out by the firemen such as forcing entry into various types of buildings, rescuing occupants, releasing persons trapped in road or rail accidents as well as the all important breathing apparatus that enables work to be carried out in smoky or toxic atmospheres.

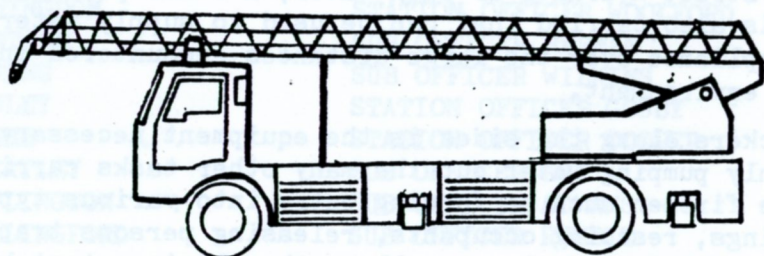
#### TRANSPORTABLE PODS



Oxfordshire was among the first to develop the use of demountable units or pods. The principle being that a small number of primemovers can carry equipment or forward control units to the scene of the incident to date the Brigade has three primemovers and nine demountable units.



## TURNTABLE LADDER



This appliance is one of the largest in the fleet weighing in the region of 14,000 Kg (13.5 TONS). The 30M (100ft) ladder is mounted on a Bedford Chassis. The extending ladder consists of four sections made from steel and specially shaped to expose a minimum surface to the wind. Extension is achieved by cables which are wound onto a drum using the road engine as a source of power. The ladder can be elevated to 75° from the horizontal and depressed to -15 as well as being rotated through 360°.

The principal controls for the ladder are located on the turntable at the base where the operator sits at a console. The uses to which this appliance can be put include rescue from high buildings by the formation of a staircase or rescue using the detachable cage, forming a bridge across rivers of canals, a water tower, or a crane.

## OXFORDSHIRE FIRE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL

SLADE PARK FIRE STATION AND DIDCOT FIRE STATION

Telephone OX 711086

Telephone 812113

Commandant

H. Meers STN.O.

Instructors

P. Henney SUB/O

C. Smallridge SUB/O

### COURSES FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

These courses are specially designed for personnel from industry. Students are instructed in the use of first aid fire-fighting appliances and in the principles of good housekeeping relating to fire prevention. Instruction includes the planning for fire drills, the siting and operation of fire detection and warning systems and fire routines.

The one day courses are arranged to instil fire mindedness at shop floor level. The course covers general safety precautions, means of escape, the use of first aid fire-fighting appliance and the use and maintenance of fire extinguishers.

Scale of Charges:- Effective as from 1st April 1984.

1. Full-Day Course at Training Centre  
£34 per student + 15% V.A.T.  
No meals provided.
2. Half-Day Course at Training Centre  
£17 per student + 15% V.A.T.  
N.B. The above courses include instruction, demonstration and participation (e.g. students operate extinguishers on fires).
3. Short Course at Companies Premises  
£6.50 per student + 15% V.A.T. (£35 min. charge).  
Plus cost of recharging extinguishers.  
N.B. This course includes instruction and demonstration only.
4. Lecture on Fire Safety  
£13 per hour per Instructor + 15% V.A.T.  
N.B. This session includes instruction only.

These charges will increase on 1st April, 1985.



## FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

The fundamental objective of the Oxfordshire Fire Service Fire Protection Department is to carry out the responsibilities vested in the Fire Authority effectively and efficiently and in such a way that a convenient and economically viable service is provided for the community. This objective includes active promotion of ensuring the protection of individuals against the adverse effects of fire and the protection of property. These responsibilities can be broadly categorised into the following headings.

- A. Statutory obligations - The direct legislative duties imposed on a fire authority i.e. The Fire Precautions Act 1971, the Petroleum Acts 1928 and 1936, Explosives Acts 1875 and 1923, Licensing Act 1964, and many others.
- B. Advice given to other Local Authority Departments regarding fire protection under Section 1 (1)(F) of the Fire Services Act 1947 which requires the Fire Authority to provide arrangements for giving, on request, advice regarding fire protection and means of escape in case of fire.
- C. Goodwill advice given on request to members' of the public in respect of fire safety, fire precautions, and fire protection of premises not controlled by statute.
- D. Fire prevention publicity and training in order to carry out these functions the Fire Service has a separate decentralised department manned by officers who devote most of their time to the larger fire protection projects whilst remaining available for operational duties, in contrast the operational officers and men provide the twenty-four hour three hundred and sixty-five day fire cover and assist the Fire Protection Department by carrying out inspections on small premises.

## GENERAL GUIDANCE ON FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN THE HOME

Every year there are 51,000 fires in the home and every year they kill about 650 people and injure a further 4,500. It seems odd that in one's own home, so carefully looked after, there can be so many fires, yet often our homes are so familiar to us that potential hazards lurk unnoticed. Commonplace items like cookers, heaters and electric blankets can all be dangerous. The Oxfordshire Fire Service offers this guide to fire safety in the home which points to some of the dangers and how they can be avoided.

-----oOo-----

BUT FIRST, WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY DO IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR HOME?

FOLLOW THIS SIX POINT PLAN:-

1. Delay can be dangerous. If you suspect that there is a fire, take the following precautions before investigating further.
2. Close the door of the room where the fire is - this will help to contain the fire and restrict the spread of poisonous fumes.
3. Alert the household and get everyone out by the safest route. If you live in a flat, don't use the lift.
4. Alert neighbours and call the fire brigade (don't leave it to somebody else).
5. To call the Fire Brigade, dial 999. You don't need to put money in a public call box. Remember to give the full address of the fire e.g. 12 Smith Street, New Town.
6. Try to reduce draughts that may fan the fire. Close all doors and windows (even in rooms away from the fire) if this can be done safely.



IT IS POSSIBLE TO TACKLE A SMALL FIRE YOURSELF  
IF YOU:- feel that there is no immediate danger to life or property and you know how to do it, however, make sure never to let fire get between you and the door.

Some of the smaller fires that may be tackled can be dealt with as follows:-

#### ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

First pull the plug out or switch off the appliance at the mains, then use an extinguisher or throw water over the appliance. NEVER use water on live Equipment.

#### FAT PAN FIRES

Turn off the heat as soon as possible and smother the flames with a saucepan lid or damp cloth, NEVER try to move the pan or use water to douse the flames.

#### FURNITURE AND OTHER FIRES

Use tap water in buckets or other handy containers and keep dousing until you are certain that the flames or any smouldering materials are extinguished.

#### CLOTHING (ON A PERSON)

It sounds a horrific thing to be confronted with, but swift action may help to prevent severe burns to a person's skin. Force the victim to the ground and wrap them in a blanket or other suitable material. then call medical assistance.

#### PREVENTING FIRES

##### SAFETY WITH ELECTRICITY

Electricity is potentially the safest type of power, yet it is the major fire danger in the home. Misused or faulty equipment is usually to blame. Try the electricity competition and check your home.

##### FIRE IN THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is the main killer in the home accounting for some 1,500 casualties annually, electric cookers mainly the cause yet seldom to blame. The culprit is more likely to be the cooker switched on unattended. Very often a smoking pan of fat will flash into a fierce blaze. The method of coping with this is explained above.

#### ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Electric blankets caused some 1,500 fires each year, not because, they are dangerous in themselves, but because they are not used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Always read these instructions and follow them to the letter.

#### HEATING APPLIANCES

It is important that all heaters are kept clear of any furniture and that they are switched off when leaving a room for long periods. All fires should be protected, but gas and solid fuel more than others, by a fire guard, gas and open fires can suck in long and flowing garments whether on the person or left to dry in front of them. Solid fuel fires can give off dangerous sparks or hot coals may occasionally fall out onto the hearth. To prevent chimney fires, which can cause serious damage to other parts of the house. Have the chimney swept every six months.

#### REPAIRS AND D.I.Y.

Do-it-yourself is commendable in these days of economic restraint, but it should be noted that many of the materials used can be dangerous or highly combustible. Here are a few safety hints for the home handyman:-

Paints, varnishes, thinners, strippers, glues and other applications are often flammable, so when using them open windows and doors to disperse their vapours extinguish pilot lights and keep any naked light and matches well away. Blowlamps must be handled with extreme care and anything combustible should be removed from the immediate vicinity. Keep the flame moving and check work surfaces and surrounding area for smouldering material during and after use. Always change cylinders out of doors.

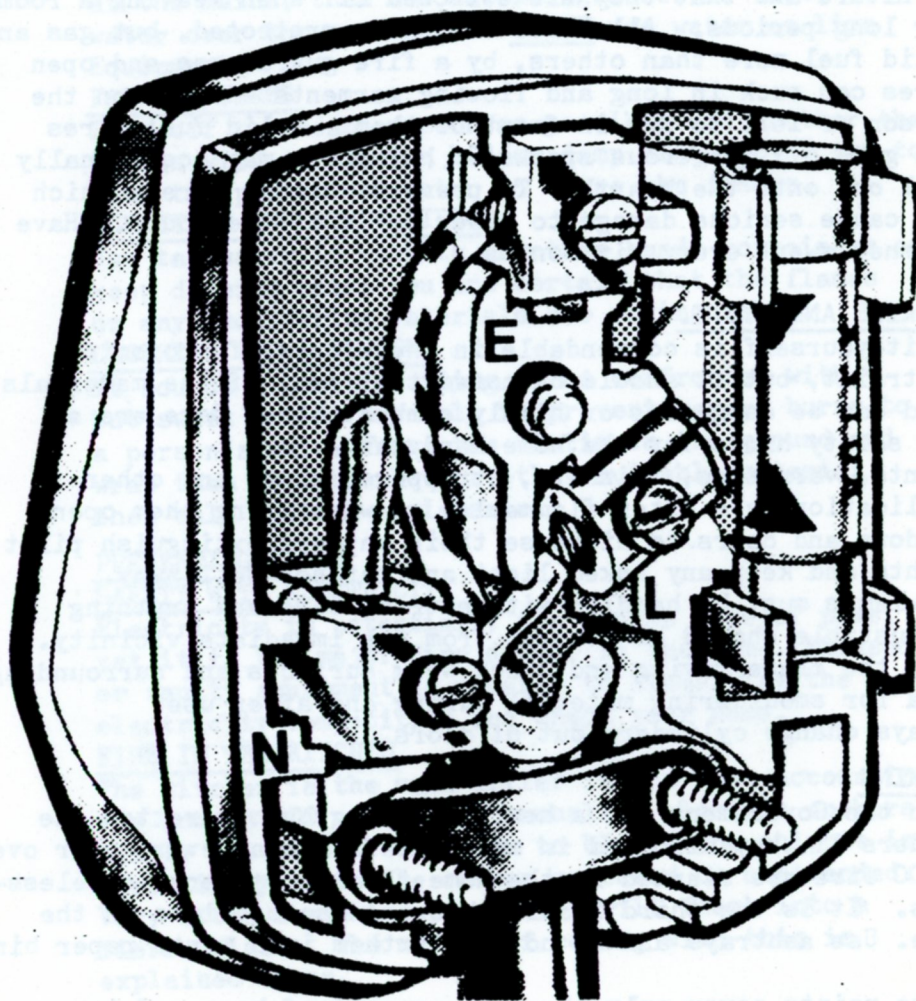
#### SMOKING

When the Government put a health warning on cigarettes one wonders if they also had in mind the fact that every year over 4,000 fire are started in the home through smokers' carelessness. It is the third leading known cause of fires in the home. Use ashtrays and do not empty them into waste paper bins.

These points cover only the main aspects of home safety,



and it is important to remember that a fire could start in a hundred different ways and in a hundred different places. But with proper care and attention to the details that you may have previously disregarded or neglected, your home should truly be "SAFE AS HOUSES".



## ELECTRICITY COMPETITION

Answer Yes or No to the following questions:-

Are your appliances still fitted with round pin plugs?  
Do you have multi adaptors, or use more than one appliance per socket?  
Do your plugs or sockets get hot?  
Do fuses blow for no apparent reason?  
Is the wiring lead or rubber covered?  
Are flexes too long or trailing on the floor?  
Have flexes been extended with makeshift connections?  
Has any wiring work been carried out by "amateurs"?  
Is it over 5 years since the wiring was checked?  
If you have answered NO to all of the questions above your electric installations appear to be safe.

If, however, you have answered YES to even one of these questions then its time you had your installation inspected by an accredited electrical contractor.

## THE PRIZES

If you correct the questions you've answered YES to, you will win

a) Peace of mind b) Safety for your family and yourself.  
Trouble free wiring installations for a further 5 years.

## ELECTRIC PLUGS

The standard electric plug is of 3 pin (flat) design. They can be fitted with either a brown 13 amp A black 5 amp or a red 3 amp fuse.

The 3 amp fuse is for use with appliances which require not more than 720 watts e.g. electric blankets, portable lamps, radio, food mixers, and black and white televisions. The 5 amp fuse is for use with appliances requiring not more than 1,200 watts e.g. single bar fires, 1 k.w. fan heaters and toasters.

The 13 amp fuse is for all other appliances up to 3000 watts e.g. electric fires, irons, colour T.V's and vacuums.  
Buy only fuses marked B.S. 1362 1 kw (kilo-watt)=1,000 watts

## WIRING

Neutral  
Live  
Earth

N BLACK OR BLUE  
L RED OR BROWN  
E GREEN OR GREEN AND YELLOW



## Prevent Common fires



### In the Kitchen

- Take extra care if you leave the kitchen whilst cooking, turn off or turn down the heat if you have to leave the cooking unattended.
- Avoid leaving children alone in the kitchen whilst you have cooking on the hob.
- Keep matches and pan handles out of children's reach.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Use caution with deep fat frying as hot oil easily sets alight.
- If a pan catches fire turn off the heat if it is safe to do so – never throw water over it.



Keep out of reach

### Smoking

- Stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of carefully.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

### Candles

- Make sure candles are secured in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire e.g curtains.

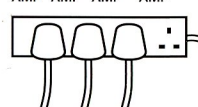
### Electrics

- Make sure electrical appliances have a British or European safety mark.
- Do not overload extension leads or adapters. There is a 13 AMP limit i.e.

Know the limit!

$$5 + 5 + 3 = 13$$

AMP AMP AMP AMP



### Electric Blankets

- Do not leave electric blankets folded as this damages the internal wiring. Store flat or rolled up.
- Follow the manufactures guidelines for use.

### Portable Heaters

- Secure heaters up against a wall to stop them falling over.
- Keep them clear from curtains and furniture and never use them for drying clothes.

## Make a Bedtime Check

### Night Time Checks

You are more at risk from a fire when asleep. It is a good idea to check your home before you go to bed.

- Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading.
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on – like your freezer.
- Check your cooker is turned off.
- Don't leave the washing machine on.
- Turn heaters off and put up fireguards.
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.



### Top Tips

- Complete a home fire risk check on-line at [365alive.co.uk](http://365alive.co.uk).
- Working smoke alarms save lives – Get it, fit it and test it weekly.
- Make a fire escape plan with your family so that everyone knows what to do if there's a fire.

### For Fire and Road Safety Advice

 Oxfordshirefireandrescueservice (official)

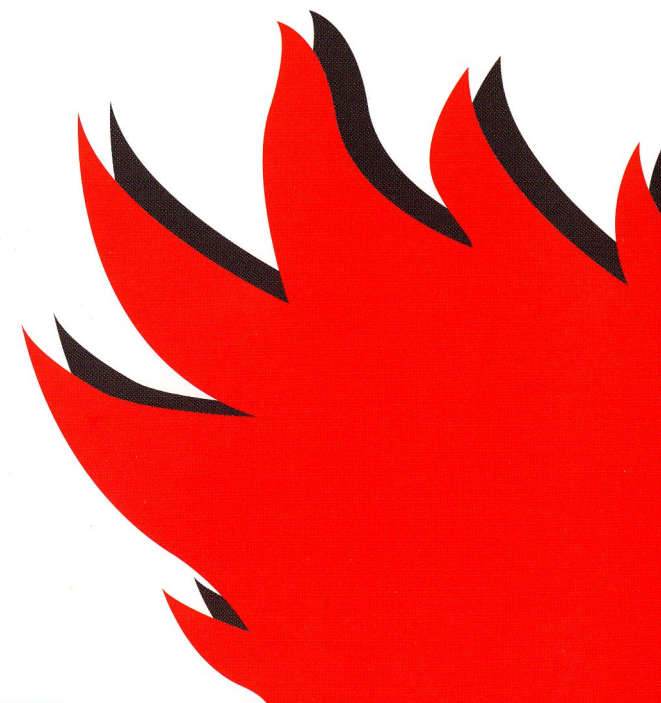
 OxonFireRescue

 08000 325999

 [365alive.co.uk](http://365alive.co.uk)

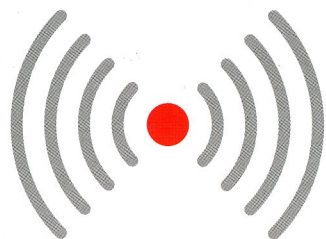


# FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME





## Protect Your Home



**SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE  
LIVES**

### Choosing a Smoke Alarm

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- An alarm with a ten year battery is the best option.
- Strobe light and vibrating pad alarms are available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- You can have linked alarms installed, so that when one alarm detects a fire all the alarms go off, this is useful if you live in a large house.
- DIY stores, electrical shops and most high street stores sell smoke alarms.

- We are happy to advise on the most suitable alarm and ensure the alarm is approved and safe.

### Fitting Your Smoke Alarm

- Don't put alarms in or near kitchens or bathrooms.
- An ideal position is in the hallway and landing providing early warning enabling you to escape the property.
- We are happy to provide guidance on the best location to fit your smoke alarms.

### Make Sure Your Smoke Alarm Works

- Make checking your smoke alarm part of your regular household routine.
- Test the smoke alarm works every week by pressing the button until the alarm sounds.
- Replace the battery immediately once it starts to beep.
- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of the alarm if it goes off by mistake.
- A ten year alarm needs to be completely replaced at the end of the ten year period.



Test it

**Get it. Install it. Check it. It could save your life!**

## Plan a Safe Escape



### Making an Escape Plan

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practice your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.

### What to do if There is a Fire

- Don't tackle fires yourself – Leave it to the professionals.
- Keep calm and act quickly, get everyone out as soon as possible.
- Do not waste time investigating what has happened or rescuing valuables or pets.
- If there is smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
- Check if a door is warm before opening. Do not open warm doors – fire is on the other side.
- As soon as you are clear of the building call 999.

### What to do if Your Clothes Catch Fire

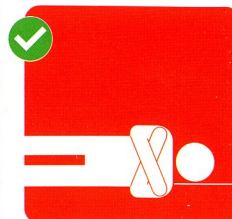
- Don't run around as it will make the flames worse.
- Lie down and roll around to put the flames out.
- Smother the flames with a heavy material e.g a coat or blanket.
- **Remember, Stop, Drop and Roll!**



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!

## Plan a Safe Escape

### What to do if Your Escape is Blocked

- If you can't get out, get everyone into one room, ideally at the front of the property, with a window that opens and if possible a phone to call 999.
- Put bedding around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke, then open the window and call 'HELP FIRE!'
- If you're on the ground or first floor, you may be able to escape through a window.
- Use bedding to cushion your fall and lower yourself down carefully – don't jump.
- If you can't open the window break the glass in the bottom corner. Make jagged edges safe with a towel or blanket.



Plan an escape route



Get out, stay out and call 999

### Escape From a High Rise Building

- Avoid using lifts and balconies if there is a fire.
- It is easy to get confused in smoke, so count how many doors you need to go through to reach the stairs.
- Check there is nothing in the corridors or stairways that could catch fire – like boxes or rubbish.
- You should still get a smoke alarm for your own home, even if there is a warning system in the block.

**GET OUT  
STAY OUT  
AND CALL  
999**

