



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **RBFRS URGES HOUSEHOLDERS TO REDUCE THEIR RISK OF FIRE**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is urging people to take measures to reduce the risk of fire in the home, following the recent fatal house fire in Maidenhead. RBFRS is continuing to investigate the cause of the fire at Wayside Mews.

Fortunately, serious house fires are relatively uncommon but the reality is that a fire can happen to anyone. However, there are several steps you can put in place to prevent a fire starting in the first place - and which could save lives in an emergency.

As you are more at risk from fire when you are asleep, RBFRS advises you to make the following checks before you go to bed:

- Close internal doors at night to stop a fire from spreading
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on (such as a 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 readily available in each room with locked windows, where everyone can find them

Smoke alarms act as early warning systems, alerting you to fire and giving you precious extra time to escape. Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test the batteries weekly. Making an escape plan in advance and practising it with everyone you live with can also save lives in an emergency.

RBFRS offers free Home Fire Safety Checks to everyone in Berkshire, although priority will be given to households or individuals identified by us to be at a greater risk of accidental fire in the home, e.g. the elderly and those suffering from long term illness. The Home Fire Safety Check provides advice on how to make an escape plan and the installation of free smoke alarms where necessary. To book yours, call freephone 0800 587 6679 or email [community.safety@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rbfrs.co.uk)

**ENDS.**

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