



R B F & R S

news release

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Keep Your Family Safe This Child Safety Week

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is supporting Child Safety Week next week by giving parents and carers advice on how to keep their children safe from fire. Child Safety Week is run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust and takes place from 23-29 June.

The theme for this year's Child Safety Week is 'Make a change. Make a difference', highlighting that making small changes can make a big difference to children's safety. The week provides a great opportunity for parents in Berkshire to make sure they have working smoke alarms and to teach children about the dangers of fire and what to do if one breaks out in the home.

You can help to keep your children safe from fire by following these simple tips:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- Never leave children alone in the kitchen when the oven or hob is on
- Don't let children play with electrical appliances or sockets
- Never let children play near a fire or heater

It is also vital to teach children what to do in the event of a fire. Don't avoid the subject for fear of frightening them – children need to know the basics of how to react in an emergency. Follow these tips as a guide:

- **Teach them how to raise the alarm**
Make sure they understand that they need to tell an adult if they see smoke or flames and that they must *never* hide
- **Plan and practise an escape route**
Make sure children know the easiest way to get out of your home and practise it regularly
- **Show children where the keys are kept**
Always keep them in the same place and make sure everyone in the house knows where it is

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- **Explain what to do if they can't get out**

Show them the best room to take refuge in - for example, one with a window

- **Discuss how to make a 999 call**

Make sure they know the number and their address off by heart. Explain the dangers of making hoax calls

Jane Weller, Community Safety Officer, said: "Fitting and maintaining smoke alarms is the single most important thing you can do to protect your family, as they can give you precious extra time to get out of the house in the event of a fire. Make sure your children know what to do and how to react quickly if a fire breaks out. Teaching children about fire safety is a lifelong investment – and one that can save lives."

ENDS.