



R B F & R S

news release

22/12/2009

No: 59/F&R

UPDATE – EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

With some areas of Berkshire currently experiencing electricity power failures, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is cautioning people to take extra care to avoid a fire in the home.

It is much safer to use a battery-powered torch rather than candles if possible. If you do need to use candles, please follow this advice:

- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Make sure candles are secured in proper holders.
- Keep candles away from materials that may catch fire, such as curtains.
- Do not walk around the house carrying a lit candle.

If you are using an open fire to heat your home, please remember:

- Ensure your chimney is swept and clear.
- Use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers from an open fire.
- Make sure embers are properly put out before you go out or go to bed.

Andy Mancey, Area Manager for Response at RBFRS, said: “By following this advice you can significantly reduce the risk of an accidental fire starting in your home. It’s important to keep warm during these extreme weather conditions – but please do so safely.”

ENDS.