



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Fire Kills Campaign

Monthly Briefing Pack

July 2023 – Cooking fire safety



**A FIRE CAN
START IN
ANY ROOM.**



**DO YOU HAVE SMOKE
ALARMS ON EVERY FLOOR?**



TEST YOURS NOW

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Feedback

We hope that these packs support local initiatives and would welcome any feedback on areas for improvement, where we could do more and anything else that you think will be beneficial to fire and rescue services. If you have any feedback or questions on the packs or the campaign more generally, please contact [James Webb](#).

Press templates and social media posts

At the end of this document, you will find template press releases and social media posts associated with the themes and activities included in this pack.

2. Cooking fire safety messages

Cooking Fire Safety covers a range of issues including leaving the cooker unattended, electronic issues and barbecues. There is a requirement to tailor the messaging and activity to your target audience. Having enough detection equipment and escape plans remains of high importance.

Cooking Safely Whilst in the Kitchen

- **Avoid** leaving **children** in the **kitchen alone** when cooking on the hob and keep matches out of their reach.
- Make sure **saucepans** are secure on the cooker and **handles are not sticking out**– so they do not get knocked off.
- Take care when wearing loose clothing as this can catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- **Double check** the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.



Take care with electrics

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. **A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.**
- Do not overload sockets,



Deep fat frying

- **Take care** when cooking **with hot oil** – it sets on fire easily.
- Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it doesn't splash.
- If the oil starts to smoke it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- Use a thermostat controlled electric deep fat fryer. They can't overheat.

Emergency steps to take if a pan catches fire:

- **Don't take any risks.** Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so. Never throw water over it.
- **Don't tackle the fire yourself** – Get Out, Stay Out, **Call 999.**

Barbecues

Barbecues are not a leading cause of fire. However, it's a handy and fun way in to engage with people in cooking safety.

- Enjoy yourself! However, don't **drink too much alcohol** if you are in **charge of the barbecue** or any cooking!

- Make sure your barbecue is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- Never leave a barbecue or any cooking unattended.
- Never use a barbecue indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- **Keep a bucket of water**, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.
- Follow the safety instructions provided with disposable barbecues.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue; use only recognised lighters or starter fuels on coal.
- **Empty ashes onto bare garden soil**, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. **If they're hot, they can melt the plastic** and start a fire.
- Do not have barbecues on balconies.
- Do not have barbecues in the countryside, unless there are safe, designated areas.



Carbon monoxide

There have been incidents of people bringing barbecues into enclosed spaces resulting in carbon monoxide poisoning. Please refer to the Gas Safe Register website for more details:

<http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/help-and-advice/seasonal-advice/bbq-safety>

Wildfire prevention messages

The NFCC has provided summer wildfire prevention messages, which can be found here - <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Wildfire-Prevention->. A wildfire prevention NFCC/Fire Kills flyer is available on the Fire Kills Portal, [here](#).

OUTDOOR & BBQ FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

DO NOT burn garden waste & **NO** bonfires at this time...



...they can get out of control & create extra work for your Fire & Rescue Service.

NEVER leave a BBQ unattended or to smoulder.

BBQs should be placed on a flat surface away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs & garden waste.

TOP TIP: Keep a bucket of water/sand or a garden hose nearby.



NEVER FLY SKY LANTERNS



THEY CAUSE A SIGNIFICANT DANGER OF FIRE.



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3. Suggestions for Local PR Events

Engaging with your community and PR events can boost message delivery in your area.

Spokesperson

You could organise an event around staying safe in the kitchen and invite a local celebrity or spokesperson. The spokesperson could do a speech/talk on fire safety tips or donate/create easy and safe recipe to do with children.

Competition

There could be an associated competition for local people to create:

- Their own recipes, potentially with additional messages on healthy eating
- Complete a quiz or word search.
- Age 6-11 to design a fire safety message poster.

This could be promoted via local events, schools, websites, Facebook, Twitter etc. The winner and their family could visit the local fire station where the FRS talk about fire safety. Or the recipes or poster could appear on your local website or could be used in the media alongside key statistics and tips on cooking safely in the kitchen.

Community events and Children activities

At community events such as festivals, villages fairs and county shows, you can take advantage of the opportunity to promote fire safety.

- Play bingo. Instead of using numbers, use pictures and someone could explain each picture (in a few words). For instance, the picture on the right would represent not to “have indoor barbecues”. The winner could get a mug with a fire safety message on it, with small goodies inside.
- Invite children holiday clubs to the local fire station, where they can learn about fire safety.
- If it is not possible to do an event- a short video on YouTube promoting fire safety could be an option. Alternatively, do a Zoom or Skype talk/discussion on how to stay safe whilst cooking. The community could enter a competition via Facebook

Stakeholder Engagement

Retail outlets for barbecue and camping equipment may provide a channel for appropriate messages, through displays or leaflets in shops targeting customers.

4. National Resources

Fire Kills Portal

The Fire Kills Campaign [Portal](#) hosts all the artwork and Fire Kills material and is available to all fire and rescue practitioners.

There is a single login for you to access the Portal (not for public sharing):













Please contact [James Webb](#) if you have any queries.

Campaigns

- Campaigns
 - Fire Kills
 - [Archive](#)
 - [Awareness Days and Weeks](#)
 - [Brand](#)
 - [Covid-19 Fire Prevention Resources](#)
 - [Fillers](#)
 - [Fireworks assets](#)
 - [Kids](#)
 - [Leaflets](#)
 - [Monthly assets](#)
 - [Photos & Icons](#)
 - [Posters](#)
 - [Social](#)

Fire Kills Campaign

Here you will find all the material for Fire Kills campaign. Check out the "Fire Kills Showcase" to see our pick of the best. Don't forget to check the "Monthly Communications Briefing" area regularly for all the new stuff.

 Archive	 Awareness Days and Weeks	 Brand	 Covid-19 Fire Prevention Resources
 Fillers	 Fireworks assets	 Kids	 Leaflets
 Monthly assets	 Photos & Icons	 Posters	 Social

StayWise

The online emergency services educational resources platform, StayWise, has a wide range of lesson plans, interactive games, activities and other resources to promote fire safety – and other safety messages – to children and young people. Many resources link to the other areas of the curriculum, allowing fire safety messages to be relayed as part of maths, English and science lessons, for example. Visit and promote the site – www.staywise.co.uk.



[Online home fire safety check tool](#)

The NFCC tool has been developed to complement the in-person home fire safety visits. It allows for a self-assessment of a household's fire safety, taking into account the individual circumstances and providing person-centred, tailored advice. The tool has also proven very useful in identifying those people more vulnerable to fire and in securing referrals for in-person visits. The tool is now referred to on Fire Kills literature and the FireEngland.uk website.



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Welcome to the online **home fire safety** check

This easy-to-follow home fire safety check has been developed through a partnership between the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Fire Kills and Safelincs. It will take you through your home one room at a time and the simple questions will help you spot fire risks as you go around your home.

The tool will offer tips and advice on the steps you can take to reduce those risks. At the end, you will receive a personalised fire safety action plan to help keep you and your household safe from fire.



Fit smoke alarms



**Plan your
escape route**



**Get out, stay out
and call 999**

For more information on how your fire and rescue service can get more from the tool, please get in touch with [James Webb](#).

5. Draft social media posts

Cooking

- Keep the kids entertained this #SummerHoliday! Why not bake something together and share some cooking fire safety tips? #CookSafe #FireKills
- In hot weather light clothing can be such a relief! Just take care to keep loose clothes away from the cooker #CookSafe #FireKills
- With kids running around over the #SummerHolidays, keep your kitchen safe. Ensure cooking & matches are out of reach! #CookSafe #FireKills
- Did you know cooking causes over 50% of all home fires? Take care in the kitchen and never leave cooking unattended. #CookSafe #FireKills
- If you have a #BBQ and it starts to rain, don't take it inside or in a tent. BBQs in enclosed spaces can poison and kill #SilentKiller
- Got a fave #BBQ dish? Burgers? Kebabs? Bananas?! If you're firing one up, keep it away from sheds, fences and trees! #BBQSafety #FireKills
- Enjoy yourself, but don't drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue #FireKills
- Lighting up the #BBQ this weekend? Keep a bucket of water, sand or garden hose nearby for emergencies. #FireKills #BBQSafety
- Having a #BBQ? Don't leave it unattended - not only is it a fire risk, you also don't want to serve your guests burnt steak!
- If you're out in the #GreatOutdoors, only light open fires and BBQs in safe designated areas. #wildfire #FireKills

6. Template Press Notices

Summer cooking

SAFETY FIRST FOR SUMMER COOKING

With the summer holidays fast approaching, many children across **[the County/region]** will be spending more time in the kitchen.

But whether they're lending a hand or simply seeking a snack, it's important to make sure that they know the hazards of a hot hob.

So as part of the Fire Kills campaign, **[Local FRS]** is asking parents and carers to make any kitchen activities a chance for kids to learn this summer.

[FRS spokesperson] said: "From bake-offs to barbecues, there are lots of creative ways to teach kids about cooking fire safety this summer. And, it's absolutely vital that they know what to do if the worst should happen.

"So alongside the melting, mixing and making, why not take the chance to pass on your fire safety knowhow? Test your smoke alarms as part of the activity. And remember, never leave a child alone with a hot hob, and help keep them safe by moving matches and saucepan handles out of their reach."

And the kids don't have to be in the kitchen to change the way you work in the summer - Distraction while cooking is a main cause of fire call-outs right across the country.

[FRS spokesperson] continued: "Half of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen - often because of distractions like phone calls or family. So whatever happens elsewhere in the house, always make sure you have one eye on the hob or oven.

The Fire Kills campaign's top tips for staying safe in the kitchen this summer are:

- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking. Take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- If a pan catches fire, don't take any risks – Get Out, Stay Out, and Call 999.
- Double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire. Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care with electrics - leads and appliances away from water and place grills and away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep your equipment clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.
- Don't cook after drinking alcohol.
- Hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn't overheat.



- Never throw water on a chip pan fire.
- In the event of a fire, have an escape plan in place.
- Don't take risks by tackling a fire. **Get out, stay out and call 999.**
- Get at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and test them monthly.

For advice specific to you and your home, or the home of someone you care for, complete an online home fire safety check at www.ohfsc.co.uk.

– ENDS –

Barbecues

BARBECUE SAFE THIS SUMMER!

Now that the warm, light evenings are with us and the summer holidays are fast approaching, barbecues are beginning to sizzle across **[the County/region]**.

But behind the bangers and burgers, summer fun has a serious side. **[Local FRS]**, as part of the Fire Kills campaign, is asking everyone to take extra care when cooking al fresco, especially when lighting barbecues or dealing with bad weather.

[FRS spokesperson] said “It’s natural to want to go outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather with family and friends - many of us can’t wait to get the barbecue lit. We all know how tempting it can be to give stubborn coals a helping hand, but, please be patient and make sure you use the right tools for the job.

“And if you’ve planned a barbecue and the weather lets you down, don’t take the barbecue indoors or into a tent. This can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning as well as fire, so we are urging everyone to stay safe this summer.”

By following the Fire Kills campaign’s top tips, you can ensure your barbecue is a safe, enjoyable event.

- Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
- Follow the safety instructions provided with disposable barbecues.
- Never use a barbecue indoors.
- Make sure your barbecue is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- Keep children, pets and garden games away from the cooking area.
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before moving it.
- Use enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue, but not more.
- Empty ashes onto bare garden soil, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. If they’re hot, they can melt the plastic and cause a fire.
- Enjoy yourself, but don’t drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue.
- Always keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.

In closing **[FRS spokesperson]** said: “This may seem a long list but most of these things are common sense. By far the biggest danger is the use of flammable liquids to light the barbecue. We have had a couple of occasions where people have poured petrol onto the charcoal in an effort to get it going and the reaction has, not surprisingly, been violent and highly dangerous. Prepare well in advance and light the charcoal early. Most of all, enjoy yourself safely”.

For advice specific to you and your home, or the home of someone you care for, complete an online home fire safety check at www.ohfsc.co.uk.

– ENDS –

Fire Safety Outdoors

SET UP CAMP SAFELY: THE HAZARDS OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, **[local FRS]** is asking the people of **[area]** to stay safe this summer as they make the most of the weather and enjoy the great outdoors, whether camping, cooking or exploring.



“A long hot summer is what we hope for,” said **[FRS spokesperson]** of **[name of FRS]**. “However, like many changes in activity, it can bring risks. If you’re intending to take out your tent, ready your rucksack or get your caravan back on the road, you should go armed with some safety advice before heading for the great outdoors.

By following the Fire Kills campaign’s top tips, you can ensure that your great adventure is a safe and enjoyable one.

Tents

- Allow at least 6m spacing between tents and caravans and ensure they are away from parked cars to reduce the risk of fire spreading
- Don’t smoke inside tents.
- Never use candles in or near a tent – torches are safer.
- Keep cooking appliances away from the tent walls and never cook inside a small tent or near flammable materials or long grass; they can all set alight easily.
- Make sure you know how to escape by cutting your way out of the tent if there’s a fire.
- Make sure everyone knows how to put out clothing that’s on fire – stop, drop and roll.

Caravans

- Fit and test a smoke alarm in your caravan.
- Take special care when cooking – don’t leave pans unattended.
- Turn off all appliances before you go out or to bed.
- Make sure ashtrays are made of a material that can’t burn or and position them securely so they can’t topple over – never smoke in bed.
- Don’t dry clothes over the stove.
- Remove any litter and rubbish near the caravan to reduce the risk of fire spreading.
- Make sure the caravan is ventilated, and never block air vents, to avoid a build-up of carbon monoxide.

Open Fires

If you must have an open fire:

- It should be downwind, at least 10m from the tent.
- Clear dry vegetation, such as leaves and twigs and form a circle of earth around the fire.
- Build a stack that will collapse inwards whilst burning.

- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Make sure that fires are fully extinguished after use.

If a fire should breakout:

- Call the local fire and rescue service and give the exact location.
- If necessary give a map reference.
- If this is not possible a landmark such as a farm or pub etc, will help them locate you.

Grass and forest fires spread rapidly:

Never throw cigarette ends out of a car window – they could start a fire and ruin surrounding countryside.

- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands. Sunlight shining through glass can start a fire. Take them home or put them in a waste or recycling bin.

If you discover a fire:

- Do not be tempted to investigate.
- Leave the area as quickly as possible and call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service.
- Do not return unless the fire and rescue service tells you that it is safe to do so.

In closing **[FRS spokesperson]** said: "It may all sound a bit daunting, but it needn't be, most of this advice is common sense. From time to time we all need reminders; so, enjoy the countryside and your recreation and be safe."

For advice specific to you and your home, or the home of someone you care for, complete an online home fire safety check at www.ohfsc.co.uk.

– ENDS –