Fire Kills Campaign
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1. Summary
This briefing pack provides you with information about the fire safety activities in June under the theme ‘outdoor fire safety’.

With the warmer weather hopefully arriving, people will start to move outside – either in the garden or in the countryside. The warmer weather does bring with it unique risks.

The summer months therefore provide a focus on seasonal risks such as fire safety in the countryside, camping fire safety, barbecues and fire safety on inland waterway and coastal boats and crafts.

As with all Fire Kills campaign activity, the objective is to raise awareness of fire safety messages and to provide local fire and rescue services with a hook for local activity.

**Awareness Weeks**
There are two relevant awareness weeks in June.
- Child Safety Week – 3-9 June
- Carers Week – 10-16 June

Additionally, Boat Fire Safety Week continues into June (27 May – 2 June). Information on the Week were circulated with the May briefing pack. You can download a copy from the [Fire Kills Campaign Portal](#).

**Carbon monoxide issues**
With barbecue messaging no doubt already being promoted, June offers a chance to catch people’s attention with these messages. With the Fire Statistics for 2017-18 reporting that there were only 79 accidental dwelling fires in England caused by barbecues, it may be beneficial to focus barbecue messages on carbon monoxide, with incidents being reported of barbecues being used in enclosed spaces resulting in CO poisoning – see page 16.

**July Briefing Pack**
The theme for the July briefing pack will be ‘Cooking’.
2. Outdoor Fire Safety Messages

There is a number of relevant fire safety messages associated with the outdoors. Depending upon your engagement activities and your local priorities, you may wish to promote messages around some or all of the following issues.

Barbecues
Barbecues don’t cause too many fires; but that may be due to a history of excellent message promotion by fire and rescue services! However, it can also be a way in to talk about cooking fire safety more generally.

Barbecue messages include:
• Enjoy yourself, but 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.
• 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.

Information on carbon monoxide safety from the Gas Safe Register, who has responsibility for promoting carbon monoxide messages on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, can be found on page 16.

Camping
When you are going camping, follow these basic precautions to reduce the risk of fire starting and spreading:
• Never use candles in or near a tent – torches are safer.
• Don’t smoke inside a tent.
• Place your cooking area well away from the tent.
• Before you set off, get the contact details of the local fire and rescue service.
• Set up tents at least six metres apart and away from parked cars.
• Make sure you know what the fire arrangements on the camp site are and where the nearest telephone is.
• Keep your cooking area clear of items that catch fire easily (‘flammable’ items), including long, dry grass.
• Put cooking appliances in a place where they can’t easily be knocked over.
• Keep matches, lighters, flammable liquids and gas cylinders out of the reach of children.
• Have an escape plan and be prepared to cut your way out of your tent if there is a fire.

Inland and coastal boats and pleasure crafts
Fire safety on inland and coastal boats and pleasure crafts is also an issue fire and rescue services may wish to consider highlighting.

Most fire and rescue services in England will have some form of boating risk within their areas, e.g. marinas, canals, rivers, lakes, coastal inlets, harbours and quays and will wish to consider this additional risk within their risk reduction initiatives.

It should be noted that those who live aboard are the most vulnerable people to target. However, those that use their boat less frequently could also be considered to be at risk and may benefit from the provision of detection equipment.

Fires can spread quickly on a boat, even on water. Alarms and detectors can help keep you and your crew safe. Additional messages around when living onboard include:
• Make sure you check and maintain your boat’s fuel, gas and electrical systems on a regular basis.
• Make an emergency plan with everyone on board before you set out.
• If in doubt, don’t fight a fire yourself. Get out, stay out and wait for the fire and rescue service.

Don’t be all at sea about fire safety.
Fit smoke alarms on your boat and test them when you go aboard. #PressToTest
The Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) has been a long-term partner of the Fire Kills campaign and may be able to support you in your local activity. More tips can be found in their ‘Fire Safety on Boats’ leaflet which you can download at this link: https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/media/293204/FSG-V32-Final-Mar-2017.pdf. Previously BSS have made copies of this leaflet, and their Carbon Monoxide Safety on Boats leaflets: https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/media/293205/carbon-monoxide-safety-on-boats-final-dec2016.pdf freely available to fire and rescue services.

Caravans

Having a working smoke alarm when you’re staying in a caravan is just as important as having one in your home. Additional messages for those living in caravans include:

- Ensure caravans and tents are at least 6 metres apart and away from parked cars.
- Make sure you know what the fire arrangements on the camp site are and where the nearest telephone is.

**Inside the caravan:**

- If you smoke, use metal ashtrays – and never smoke in bed.
- Don’t leave children alone inside.
- Don’t block air vents – if any leaking gas builds up you may fall unconscious and be unable to escape.
- Turn off all appliances before you leave the caravan or go to bed.
- Never use a cooker or heater whilst your caravan is moving.

If there’s a fire in your caravan:

- Get everyone out straight away.
- Call the fire and rescue service and give your location with a map reference, if possible, or provide a nearby landmark, like a farm.

How to reduce the risk of wildfires

Dry ground in the summer means there’s an added risk of a fire starting, but you should take care at all times of the year. Follow these tips to reduce the chance of a wildfire in the countryside:

- Extinguish cigarettes properly and don’t throw cigarette ends on the ground – take your litter home.
- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows.
- Avoid using open fires in the countryside.
- Don’t leave bottles or glass in woodland – sunlight shining through glass can start fires (take them home and recycle them).
- Only use barbecues in a suitable and safe area and never leave them unattended.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it to the fire and rescue service immediately.
• Don't attempt to tackle fires that can’t be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area as quickly as possible.

In the countryside
Every year, fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Some fires are started deliberately, but most are due to carelessness.

• Put out cigarettes and other smoking materials properly before you leave your vehicle.
• If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately.
• Avoid open fires in the countryside. Always have them in safe designated areas.
• If you can, prepare for the arrival of the fire and rescue service at the pre-arranged meeting point, by unlocking gates, etc.

The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. Most of it is just good common sense, designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.

The Code makes it clear what the responsibilities are for both the public and the people who manage the land. It has information about rights, responsibilities and liabilities and how we all have a duty to protect the countryside. Together with common sense, it helps to make it easy for visitors to act responsibly and identify possible dangers.

For more information on The Countryside Code, please visit https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code.

Sky lanterns
Although sky lanterns are increasingly popular during celebrations, they can travel miles before coming down and the burnt-out remains of lanterns can injure livestock and litter the area where they fall.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), who has responsibility for sky lanterns, report that a number of local authorities are either considering introducing voluntary bans on council-owned land, or have already done so. A DEFRA report on sky lanterns suggested that voluntary actions and initiatives to raise public awareness are effective and may well have contributed to a fall in lantern sales over the last few years.

A message you may wish to promote might be:
- We recommend that you do not use sky lanterns as you have no control over them once they've been set off. They can kill animals, litter the countryside and can even start fires. If you do choose to set them off, always follow the manufacturers’ guidance/instructions carefully.

**Outdoor Themed Activities**
Local engagement activity and PR events can boost the delivery of the message in your area.

**Community events**
With the warmer weather bringing a range of community events, there will be plenty of opportunity to promote fire safety messages. School fetes, village fairs, county shows and festivals offer interaction with a range of people and families.

**Partnerships**
Retail outlets for barbecue and camping equipment may provide a channel for appropriate messages, through displays or leaflets in shops targeting customers. Similarly, visitor and information centres at relevant countryside spots provide a way through to relevant audiences.

**Media activity – e.g. weather forecasts**
Fire and rescue services may wish to work with local media during the summer to relay outdoor fire safety messages. For example, in warmer periods, fire and rescue practitioners could negotiate key messages to be placed at the end of local and regional weather forecasts.

**Press notices**
To support the campaign, we have provided some template press notices to assist with local PR and media opportunities (see page 18 onwards). The press notices can, of course, be tailored as necessary to reflect local priorities, activities and messages.

**Draft Social Media Posts**
Fire Kills draft tweets and hashtags which you may wish to use are below:

**Barbecues**
- Got a fave #BBQ dish? Burgers? Kebabs? Bananas?! If you’re firing one up, keep it away from sheds, fences and trees! #BBQSafety #FireKills
- Lighting up the #BBQ this weekend? Keep a bucket of water, sand or garden hose nearby for emergencies. #FireKills #BBQSafety
- Enjoy yourself, but don’t drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue #FireKills

**Caravanning and camping**
- Caravan holiday with the family? #SmokeAlarms in caravans are just as important as the ones in the home! #FireKills
• Got any camping trips planned? Don’t cook, smoke or use candles in or near a tent. Fire can destroy a tent in less than 60secs. #FireKills

**Wildfires**

• If you're out in the #GreatOutdoors, only light open fires and BBQs in safe designated areas. #wildfire #FireKills

• If you spot a #wildfire, don’t try to tackle any that can’t be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area ASAP and call 999 #FireKills

• Help us reduce the wildfires fires that occur every year. Avoid open fires and put cigarettes right out to prevent #wildfires. #FireKills
3. Child Safety Week

*Family life today: where’s the risk?*

Child Safety Week is the annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). Their aim is to secure a safer environment for children for all ages, so they can live life to the full while being protected from serious injury or death from accidents.

This year the Week will run from 3 – 9 June 2019 under the theme – *Family life today: where’s the risk?* It highlights the new dangers facing families today from our modern lifestyles and offers simple solutions to keep children safe. That’s why CAPT are calling on practitioners working with parents and families to help raise awareness of and reduce the risk of serious potential accidents by signing up and running an event or activity.

Fire safety is key focus for many of the participating organisations. CAPT would therefore like to invite fire and rescue services to join forces with local nurseries, primary schools, children’s centres and NHS teams to help spread the word among parents and families about how to prevent fires and other serious accidents.

There’s lots of different ways to make an impact. A few are listed below, but you’ll find all the information you need to run an event in the *Child Safety Week 2019 Action Pack*, whether it’s giving a presentation or demonstration or teaming up to provide home safety checks. You can download your copy now, and sign up to receive updates and additional activity resources at: [www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/sign-up](http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/sign-up).

**Ideas to get involved in Child Safety Week**

- Join forces with local nurseries and primary schools to promote fire safety, for example by offering fire safety presentations or participating any Child Safety Week assemblies. Get children to discuss what they can do to be Fire Safety heroes!
- Find out what’s happening at local children’s centres, nurseries or Home-Start local programmes – they may already be involved. Why not hold a demonstration at a family fun day or show a fire safety video? Young children get very excited to see local fire and rescue service staff in their uniform. You can get parents to take the safety hero pledge and then download their safety hero certificates.
- Link up with health visitors and your local safety equipment scheme to check homes for fire hazards and fit free smoke alarms in the homes of the most vulnerable families.
- Use the template press release to get the fire safety message out to the local press. This will be available in the lead up to the week.
- Visit local playgroups to show the Frances the Firefly video and distribute books, stickers and height charts to children.

It couldn’t be simpler to get involved or more worthwhile spending some time to help protect local children from serious accidents.
For more information, visit www.childsafetyweek.org.uk. You can follow CAPT on Facebook – www.facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust - for messages you can share with families.

**Home Office resource**
The Fire Kills fold out poster – ‘Get Out, Stay Out, Call 999’ – is useful to highlight the messages of Child Safety Week. The poster is available from the Fire Kills Campaign Portal.

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**Draft Social Media Posts**

- It’s #ChildSafetyWeek! #FamilyLifetoday Working smoke alarms can help keep you and your family safe from fire. Fit them and test them regularly. #FireKills

- Keep your kids safe from fire. Fit smoke alarms on every level & test them regularly #ChildSafetyWeek #FireKills

- Beware of #ModernLifetodayanditsrisks this #ChildSafetyWeek. Over 50% of fire start in the kitchen, so don’t get distracted. #FireKills
4. Carers Week

Carers are a key route to a particularly vulnerable group in the community and offer a trusted voice who can promote general fire safety messages.

Carers Week is an annual campaign that aims to:
- raise awareness of caring
- highlight the challenges carers face, and
- recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

*Getting Carers Connected 2019*

This year, Carers Week (10 – 16 June) is focusing on *Getting Carers Connected*. Communities which support carers to look after their loved ones well, while recognising that they are individuals with needs of their own.

The Week provides good opportunities for fire and rescue authorities to promote awareness of specific issues tailored to the audience. More information on how to get involved in Carers Week and how to pledge your support can be found here - [http://www.carersweek.org/get-involved](http://www.carersweek.org/get-involved).

A number of organisations work together to run Carers Week including Age UK, Carers UK, Carers Trust, Independent Age, Macmillan Cancer Support, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Motor Neurone Disease Association.

A Getting Involved guide has been put together to get carers connected in their communities, which can be downloaded here: [https://www.carersweek.org/get-involved/downloads](https://www.carersweek.org/get-involved/downloads)

*Opportunities for local engagement*

- **Media activity**
  - Get involved and help promote the messages through your Facebook and Twitter channels.
  - Use the opportunity to approach and engage local radio stations and contact them directly to ask to do a spot around the morning or afternoon school run targeting parents. Their contact details are available on their website.
  - A template press release for Carers Week is available on page 18.

- **Partnerships, events and visits**
  - Local Carers Centres – You may wish to work with a local group to spread message. Perhaps a talk to show the different kinds of smoke detectors available and covering issues such as the extra awareness needed when using oxygen cylinders. Many Carers Centres will have events going on as part of Carers Week so you may be able to take
part in these. You can find local carer services here - http://www.carers.org/carers-services/find-your-local-service.

- Many local charities will be doing activity around Carers Week which provide great opportunities for partnership.

**Draft Social Media Posts**

- *This #CarersWeek is a chance to think about the safety of those who need help. Test their #SmokeAlarms and keep them safe. #FireKills*
5. Gas Safe Register Barbecue and Carbon Monoxide Materials

Gas Safe Register
Gas Safe Register is the official gas registration body for the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Guernsey, appointed by the relevant Health and Safety Authority for each area. By law, all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register. They additionally have responsibility to improve gas safety.

On their website, they have a dedicated section on barbecue safety – https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/bbq.

Hard copy material available
Gas Safe Register has produced leaflets and posters about barbecue safety in tents and caravans and they have web banners available. Leaflets and posters can be ordered online via https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/leaflets or alternatively email marketing@gassaferegister.co.uk. They are happy to supply electronic versions if they are unable to meet your request for hard copies.

Draft social media posts
Gas Safe Register has also provided social media updates for BBQ and CO messaging, should you wish to use them:

Facebook posts:
1. Never take a smouldering or lit BBQ (charcoal or gas) into a tent, caravan or cabin. Even if you have finished cooking, your BBQ should remain outside as it will still give off fumes for some hours after use.
2. Never use a BBQ inside to keep you warm. BBQ’s in confined spaces can put you at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
3. Stay safe whilst camping. Never leave a lit BBQ unattended or while sleeping.
4. Using a BBQ or portable heater this summer? Only use appliances in accordance with the operating instructions. Never use indoors.
5. Remember the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness. If concerned seek medical advice.

**Twitter updates:**
5. Regardless of the weather you shouldn’t use a BBQ inside your tent or caravan. Read our important tips to stay safe [http://bit.ly/26oAgiX](http://bit.ly/26oAgiX)
**Carbon Monoxide**

In recent years there have been a number of fatalities and injuries as a result of people bringing BBQ's into enclosed spaces and being overcome by carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a highly poisonous substance which is created when fossil fuels such as gas and solid fuels like charcoal and wood fail to combust fully due to a lack of oxygen. You can’t see it, taste it or smell it but it can kill quickly with no warning.

CO poisoning occurs when you breathe in the gas and it replaces oxygen in your bloodstream. Without oxygen, your body tissue and cells die. Even small amounts of the gas can cause CO poisoning, and long term effects can include paralysis and brain damage.

The symptoms of CO poisoning are often mistaken for the flu, food poisoning or fatigue. However, there can be other signs that indicate CO poisoning. For example, if your symptoms occur when you are at home and get better when you leave the house, or if others in your home (including pets) experience similar symptoms at the same time.

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**6 main symptoms to look out for:**

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Breathlessness
- Collapse
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness

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Gas Safe Register have a wealth of information about carbon monoxide on their website:

- [https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/carbonmonoxide](https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/carbonmonoxide)
- [https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/bbq](https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/bbq)
6. Fire Kills Campaign Portal

The Fire Kills Campaign Portal hosts all campaign artwork and material and is available to all fire and rescue practitioners.

Please contact Fire Kills Campaign if you have any query.
7. Template Press Release – 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. In recent years, some people have sadly succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning as a result, 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 more information on fire safety, please visit https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/.

– ENDS –
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 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 poisonous gases.

Open Fires
If you must have an open fire:
- It should be downwind, at least 10m from the tent.
- Clear dry vegetation, leaves, etc, to 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 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 more information on fire safety, please visit https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/.

– ENDS –
AVOIDING FIRE AFLOAT

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, [local FRS] is reminding sailing enthusiasts in [area] to take care when out on the waves and waterways this summer.

“The number of boat fires on our coastal and inland waters is relatively low.” said [name of FRS spokesperson] of [name of FRS]. “But when they do occur, they quite often have devastating consequences”

“The remote location of most moorings means that fire and rescue services can find it hard to get close to boating incidents. And on many occasions, this delay can result in the total destruction of the boat and surrounding property”.

“By following the Fire Kills campaign’s top tips you can ensure your time afloat is safe and enjoyable, for yourself and your passengers”.

- Make sure you know your boat and make a fire action plan with everyone in the boat.
- Fit a smoke alarm that carries an approval mark such as ‘kitemark’.
- Fit a gas and petrol vapour detector alarm in the bilge and even in the cabin space to give you early warnings of dangerous build-ups of explosive gases.
- Check all appliances are turned off and if possible, close the valve on the LPG cylinders before you go to bed or leave the boat.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Make sure they are put out safely.
- Keep candles, matches, lighters and other sources of flame out of reach of children.
- Make sure cigarettes are put out safely – use metal ashtrays. Avoid falling asleep with a lit cigarette – never smoke in bed.
- Never leave a hot hob unattended especially when cooking with oil or fat.
- Don’t fit curtains or fabrics over hob burners and don’t dry tea towels or clothes over a cooker or hob.

In closing, [FRS spokesperson] said: “This may seem a long list but most of the actions are common sense. If you follow the advice you will help reduce the risk of fire occurring on your boat”.

For more information on fire safety, please visit [https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/](https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/).

– ENDS –

10. Template Press Release – Child Safety Week
FAMILY LIFE TODAY: WHERE’S THE RISK?

[Insert name of FRS], as part of the Fire Kills campaign, is encouraging local families and child carers to promote - Family Life Today: where’s the risk? as part of Child Safety Week 2019, run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust from 3 to 9 June – www.childsafetyweek.org.uk.

[Insert name of fire and rescue spokesperson] said: “Half of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen - often because of distractions like family or the phone ringing. Whatever happens elsewhere in the house, always make sure you have one eye on the hob or oven.

“Another really vital thing mums and dads can do to keep their family safe is talk to their kids about the importance of fire safety and make sure they know what to do if the worst happens. Fitting smoke alarms and involving the children in testing it regularly can also help keep them fire-aware and – most importantly – provide the vital seconds you need to escape in a fire. This could develop a life-saving habit for the future.”

Katrina Philips, the CEO of the Child Accident Prevention Trust, said, “Preventing deaths and serious injury from accidents lies at the heart of Child Safety Week. Families can take simple steps to protect themselves from the devastation caused by fire; testing smoke alarms, putting matches and candles out of reach and keeping escape routes clear all take a few moments. We are delighted that fire and rescue authorities are supporting the Week and families to make a real difference to protecting children.”

Here are [Insert name of FRS]’s top tips for a safer home:

• **Keep safe in the kitchen** – Make sure children know that the kitchen is not a play area - never leave younger children alone in the kitchen when you’re cooking and never let them play near the oven and hob.

• **Nominate your child to be the ‘Escape champ’** – Regularly role-play escape routes and give children the responsibility to keep escape routes clear.

• **Get ‘key clever’** – Encourage your children to check that keys are in the correct place. Keys for windows and doors should always be kept in an accessible place so you can get out quickly in the event of a fire.

• **Discuss how to call 999** – Make sure children know which number to call in an emergency. They should also know their address. You can pin both up by the phone; explain the importance of only calling 999 in a real emergency.

• **Fit and test smoke alarms regularly** – A working smoke alarm can give you the vital time you need to escape a house fire. You should have one on each level of your home and test it weekly.
• **Don't remove the batteries** – If your smoke alarm keeps going off accidentally while you are cooking, don't remove the batteries. Instead move the alarm or change it for one with a silencer button.

• **In the event of a fire ‘Get out, Stay out, Call 999!’** – Don’t delay for valuables, don't investigate or try to tackle the fire. Use a mobile, a neighbour’s phone or a phone box to call 999. If someone needs to be rescued wait safely outside for the firefighters who have the equipment and training to do it. Never go back in.

For advice on fire safety, please go to [www.gov.uk/firekills](http://www.gov.uk/firekills) or contact your local fire and rescue authority on: [insert contact details].

To find out more about Child Safety Week go to the CAPT website [www.childsafetyweek.org.uk](http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk)
- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

• Fire safety resources are available by contacting [insert your Community Safety Officer’s details] or online at: [https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/](https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/)
11. Template Press Release – Carers Week

[Local FRS] LENDS SUPPORT TO [area’s] CARERS

This Carers Week (10-16 June) [Local FRS], as part of the Fire Kills campaign, is reaching out to local carers and reminding them that help is available to keep them, and the people they care for, safe from fire.

Fire safety is another worry on an ever-growing list for those with the extra responsibility of looking after an elderly relative, sick friend or a disabled family member.

A survey showed that more than half of the people who had tested someone else’s smoke alarm had done so for an older family member. But there are many other issues a carer must think about – from the extra time it takes for people with difficulty moving to escape a fire in the home, to the added risks of flammable equipment such as oxygen cylinders.

This week [Local FRS] is reminding carers that they’re not alone. Local carers can come to [place, date time] to hear what help, advice and solutions are available to help make their jobs that little bit easier and the homes of those cared for that little bit safer.

[Fire and rescue spokesperson said:] “There is lots of help available for carers to make sure that they and their loved ones are protected – be it simple safety advice over the phone or on our website, [to a free Home Fire Risk Check] or helping them find the specialist equipment they need.

“The simplest thing any carer can do to prevent fire in their home is to make a few easy additions to their normal routine. Testing your loved one’s smoke alarm weekly and planning an escape route could help give them the vital extra seconds they need to get out in a fire. Simple steps such as closing doors at night and avoiding overloaded plug sockets will help reduce the risk in their home.

“A huge variety of specialist safety equipment is also available – vibrating smoke alarms for the hard of hearing, easy-reach smoke alarm testers for those with limited movement and linked alarm systems are just a few options to help you feel safer.”

If you take care of a loved one, [Local FRS’s] advice could help make your – and their – jobs easier should the worst happen:

- Make sure the person you care for is registered with your local fire and rescue service if they have sight, hearing, mobility difficulties, or if they use oxygen. This will mean a fire crew is made aware of your circumstances in the event of an emergency.
- If you have a text phone or minicom, you can contact the emergency services on 18000.
• Make sure that the person you care for knows what to do in the event of a fire.
• It’s a good idea to practise an escape so that you and your loved ones feel confident enough to do it by day or night.

Some simple everyday checks can help prevent a household fire:
• A working smoke alarm can give your loved ones the extra time they need to escape a house fire. Make testing the batteries of their alarms part of your weekly routine.
• Most house fires happen at night, so make sure your smoke alarm is in a position that will wake the person you care for up; eg in the bedroom.
• If you can, close inside doors at night. This will help prevent a fire from spreading.
• If you use oxygen, make sure the equipment is stored safely out of direct sunlight, well ventilated, always dry and away from heat sources.
• Never have open flames, smoke or use electrical appliances such as hairdryers, whilst using oxygen.

Specialist equipment is available:
• If you live with the person you care for, consider fitting an intercom which will allow you to alert someone else in the house in an emergency.
• If you or the person you care for has difficulty hearing you can get specialist smoke alarms which use a strobe light and vibrating pads.
• Alternatively consider linking the alarm system to your own – this can alert you to any danger.
• A coloured sticker on the smoke alarm can help people with trouble seeing it to test it, or your local fire and rescue authority might be able to provide a coloured cover.
• Placing a tactile indicator along your escape route can make it easier for those with sight difficulties to find the exit.
• Easy access smoke alarms are available for people who have trouble moving around. These can be tested from the wall rather than the ceiling. The Disabled Living Foundation can provide more information on these products.

For further information on fire safety please visit https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/.

- ENDS –