





# Isolation and Home Workers Fire Safety advice. COVID - 19

## Tip 1 – Test and maintain your Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms

- Test your Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms once a month.
- Every three months, gently use a vacuum cleaner fitted with the soft brush attachment to clean over and around the case of the alarm to remove dust and small insects .
- Never cover cover your alarms to avoid nuisance calls.

## Tip 2 - Over half of fires in the home start in the kitchen

- Do not leave cooking unattended - this is easily done if you get distracted whilst working from home.
- Take extra care with children around. They could demand more of your attention whilst juggling work and cooking.
- Don't leave saucepan handles sticking out from the hob - this avoids them being knocked off.
- Double check your cooker, grill and hob is turned off when you have finished cooking.

## Tip 3 – Did you know, fires can start with mobile phone and portable device chargers?

- Always use the charger that came with your phone, tablet, e-cigarette, laptop or mobile device.
- There are lots of fake chargers out there, and it can be difficult to spot the difference and NEVER leave a device charging unattended or use damaged leads.
- Never cover chargers or devices – that includes using your laptop and power lead on the bed.

## Tip 4 - Are you using electrical extension leads safely?

- Extension leads naturally generate heat especially when appliances that draw plenty of power are used. For example - heaters, kettles and hair straighteners etc. **Coiled or wound up extension leads MUST be fully unwound when in use to avoid the coiled flex from overheating.**
- Never join extension leads together in a daisy chain to increase capacity or distance. This just increases the load at the original wall socket.
- Never run any electrical leads under rugs or carpets. Apart from generating heat, items such as chairs or desks and even foot traffic could damage the cables and cause a fire.

## Tip 5 - Are you overloading your sockets or extension leads?

- Most people use 4-way adapters to increase the number of appliances that they can plug into a wall socket. However, although there is space to plug in 4 appliances, this does not mean it is always safe to do so.
- Never overload an extension lead by plugging in appliances that will exceed the maximum current rating. This could cause the plug in the wall socket or the lead to overheat.
- As a rule of thumb, the extension lead itself has a 13amp fuse in its own plug, therefore only one appliance with a 13amp fuse such as a heater can be in used on the lead at any one time. If you use smaller appliances that have have 3 or 5 amp fuses such as table lamps or a small radio, then the lead may accommodate a few at a time. (see the picture on the front cover as an example)

## Tip 6 - Ensure purpose fitted FIRE DOORS are not wedged or held open.

- If you live or stay in a block of flats, a house in multiple occupation (HMO), Hostel, Guest house or even some shared homes, there will undoubtedly be fire doors fitted in certain locations such as lobbies and stairwells etc.
- DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO WEDGE THEM OPEN TO AVOID TOUCHING HANDLES
- In the event of a fire, these doors are there to prevent the spread of smoke, heat and flames to your escape routes..

## Tip 7 – MAKING A 999 CALL DURING THE COVID - 19 OUTBREAK.

- If you need to call the Fire Service or any other 999 responder, please ensure you inform the call operator if there is anyone at the property that has COVID -19 symptoms or is in isolation.
- **WE WILL STILL ATTEND**, but our emergency responders need to be aware so they can protect themselves accordingly.