



## Topic: - What are the risks – Electrical Fan Heaters

### Are you aware of the Fire that occurred in your area?

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February crews from Stafford Fire Station received a call to respond to the activation of a smoke alarm at a Bungalow in Western Downs.

On arrival it was found that the smoke alarm had operated as a result of a fire in a fan heater that was being used by the 94 year old occupier, the fire was out on arrival, however, there was obvious burns to the carpet which were cut away by the crew.

No injuries were sustained by the occupier and she did not need hospital treatment.

### Risks of Electrical Heaters

#### Electrical Heaters:- Know the risks

Electrical heaters can be a great way to keep warm – especially if you only want to warm up one room. However, they should be used with care.



#### Are electrical heaters dangerous?

Most fire involving electrical heaters are preventable, it's important to stay safe while heating your home.

There are many reasons fires start, but fires involving heaters seem to have a particularly high fatality rate. This might be because of the circumstances they start in:-

- Fire typically start when bedding, blankets or clothes are placed too close to heaters
- People with mobility issues are especially at risk of tripping or falling onto a heater – placing them at a safe distance is all the more important.
- Some kinds of heaters also present a carbon monoxide risk which can be fatal. It can make you drowsy and less able to escape. That's why it's so important to always fit a carbon monoxide alarm in rooms with solid fuel, gas or paraffin heaters.



### Safer Ways to use Heaters

#### Our Safety Tips

- Make sure heaters are well maintained and in good working order
- Check that your heater isn't on a recall list
- Never install, repair or service appliances yourself. Make sure anyone who does is registered with the Gas Safe register, the Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme (HETAS), or the Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC)
- Don't take risks with old heaters – if its electrical and getting older, get it tested by a qualified electrician or buy a new one
- Where appropriate, secure heaters against a wall to stop them falling over, or fit wall-mounted heaters
- Keep heaters well way from clothes, curtains and furniture and never use them for drying clothes
- Always sit at least one metre from a heater as it could set light to your clothes or chair
- Before attempting to move your heater, turn it off and allow it to cool first.

### Are you aware of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services partnership with the Staffordshire Winter Warm Initiative

#### Emergency covid winter support is available to help keep residents warm at home.

Staffordshire residents who are struggling to heat their home could get up to £200 worth of emergency support to keep their home warm.

Staffordshire County Council has a limited budget of just over £400,000 to help residents. This budget is limited, and residents will be helped on a first come, first serve basis.

We want to make sure that the most vulnerable people are getting the support they need, and **we need your help to tell residents about the scheme and encourage them to apply.**

Residents can apply online by visiting [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/covidwinterreferral](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/covidwinterreferral) or by calling the charity Beat The Cold on 01782 914915

**As part of this initiative when Fire and Rescue Service visit the home of our most vulnerable members of the community we are sharing information regarding this initiative and where necessary will provide and drop off an **oil filled radiator.****

### What you can do to help

It's important that we do our best together to reduce the risks from fire in your homes. Please let us know if you think someone maybe vulnerable from fire **or needs support with warming their home safely or are struggling to pay their heating bills.**

Please give us a call and have a chat with your Community Safety Officers. Service is completely confidential.

**01785 898719 or email: - [wsdgpventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk)**

**In the event of an emergency get out, stay out and dial 999**