

Fire doors from five suppliers 'fail to meet standards'

Dear colleagues

Last Month I suggested that you should look at Fire Door Safety Week, which is 24th – 30th September. Since then I have attended a Fire safety conference and was provided with a number of documents that can help you in Care, Extra care sheltered housing or Domiciliary care. Four really useful and interesting documents for staff training and checking your procedures are listed below. <https://www.firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk/>

1 Fire Marshal Training checklist

This is used post training for you as a Manager to identify with key staff that they can show you where to switch off the gas point in the kitchen, boiler house or laundry or how to switch off your sprinkler system when the fire service give permission

2 Person Centred Fire risk assessment

This can be used by anyone who has contact with a vulnerable person to help identify and manage fire risk.

3 Matrix for fire safety responsibilities in Specialised housing

Sheltered, Extra care, supported living and hostels-based staff can use this to identify who is responsible for various elements of fire safety and clarifies whether it is Owner, Landlord, Housing provider, Managing agent, Care provider or Commissioner- this is critical if there is a dispute, to ensure there is no gap via which vulnerable people can be harmed.

<https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/news/nfcc-launches-specialised-housing-guidance>

4 Fire safety advice for users of health care products and equipment

This leaflet from the London Fire Brigade is an information leaflet and covers the storage and use of such items such as oxygen emollient creams and airflow mattresses. You can print this off just change the fire brigade contact details for your own local service

Training and communication failures can lead to deaths in a fire emergency

There was an interesting presentation from Hertfordshire Group commander Paul Macdonald who has investigated the fatal fire in a care home. A key point identified so far was lack of ability of the three nights staff and in particular the one who rang 999 to be able to communicate to the fire service the information needed over the phone and when told to evacuate, the 3 care workers left the building, and did not start to evacuate the residents, which appeared to be due to lack of understanding the fire service instructions and lack of training or understanding their training. Another example where poor English-speaking ability hampered the start of support was shared at the event by a care company.

Double check with your night staff – do they know what your procedures are? Can they understand how to contact the emergency services, and can they understand things they might be asked to do?

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