



Statement of Intent

Definition of Risk

Dwelling Fires

July 2026



PREVENTION

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

HWFR

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Introduction



The information articulated in this Statement of Intent will help Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) identify how it will target its prevention activities.

HWFRS defines risk as a combination of the likelihood and consequences of hazardous events. This aligns with the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) Definition of Risk.

As well as using the NFCC Definition of Risk, a range of other risks have been considered, which are important to understand when looking at areas presenting the greatest threat or harm of life.

Using the Definition of Risk and the associated methodology means that HWFRS will be able to focus its resources on activities where they will have the greatest impact on reducing risk and vulnerability within their local communities.

We do recognise that fires occur in businesses, agricultural buildings, vehicles, and open spaces etc. but we have concentrated on dwelling fires because these are more likely to result in death or injury.

HWFRS defines risk as a combination of the likelihood and consequences of a hazardous event.

This information will support the Prevention team to plan how best to deliver its preventative services to help prevent dwelling fires. To help us define what we mean by 'vulnerable', we have identified and analysed the factors that put people at an increased likelihood of requiring an intervention or response from the Service.



Who is at Risk

We have explored the factors that increase the likelihood of dying in a dwelling fire, as well as the factors that put people at greater risk of having a dwelling fire. Whilst incident data is important, this information is not to be viewed in isolation.

It is important to understand what makes an individual most at risk of injury or death, following a domestic dwelling fire and a variety of datasets and intelligence was also utilised to support the development of this statement. This included the interrogation of national datasets as well as reviewing local intelligence and trends.

Individuals who are at risk of dying in a fire

National Home Office Data for fire fatalities and injuries states that there are factors that put individuals at a higher risk of dying in a fire.

An interrogation of the Service's historical incident dataset and an analysis of national data, including Home Office data, identified that in the case of a fire, individuals who are at highest risk of dying in a fire are those **over 65, living alone, with reduced mobility, a disability, or an impairment due to drugs and/or alcohol and smokers.**

Individuals over the age of 65 represent the largest proportion of fire fatalities in HWFRS over the last 3-year period with 67% of those dying in a fire being over the age of 65. Whilst the data extracted doesn't put this age group as the one most likely to have a fire, if this groups of individuals do have a fire, the consequences are likely to be much more severe.

Individuals who are at risk of having a fire

Some of the key factors linked to the likelihood of experiencing a dwelling fire include home ownership, (un) employment, deprivation, property type and tenure.

The Service will interrogate internal and external datasets to produce detailed maps, to ascertain those areas most at risk of experiencing a dwelling fire for each Station ground. This will be used to assist in targeting prevention activity to specific areas.

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service provide fire safety advice to everyone. A Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) can be carried out for more vulnerable individuals, including older adults, those living alone, families with young children, and people with reduced mobility.

Working together with our partners, we help provide a signposting service aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable or disadvantaged people.

For further information about a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit** call us on 0800 032 1155

An online Home Fire Safety Check can also be completed by accessing our Service Website: www.hwfire.org.uk/hfsv



Further Information:

For further information please visit:

www.hwfire.org.uk

To request a Home Fire Safety Visit, the online Home Fire Safety Check form can be accessed directly via our website here:

www.hwfire.org.uk/hfsv

