



1. Your Fire Service

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has 27 Fire Stations strategically located across the two counties. The Service has five wholetime Stations based in the cities of Hereford, Worcester and the three towns of Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. It also operates three day-crewed Stations in the Worcestershire towns of Malvern, Droitwich and Evesham.

The remaining Stations all operate the retained duty system, and are utilised mainly in Herefordshire, with 12 out of the 19 Retained Stations located there.

The Fire and Rescue Service has 328 full time operational staff, 369 retained Firefighters and officers, 25 Fire Control staff and 142 support staff. We also host one of 29 national Urban Search and Rescue specialist units.

The Service attends approximately 9,000 emergency incidents each year. The majority of calls for assistance are to fires, road traffic collisions and alerts from automatic alarm systems. In our area in particular, there are also calls for rope rescues, for grass fires in open areas, and to assist when floods strike. We have highly trained specialist teams to deal with these specific types of emergencies.

Our long term vision is 'making Herefordshire and Worcestershire safer from fire and other hazards and to improve community well-being'.

2. How Fires work

You need three things to make a fire :

Fuel Oxygen Heat



If one of these is missing you cannot make a fire and if you take one of these away you can put out a fire.

Combustion is a chemical reaction that involves oxygen and produces energy (heat) so rapidly that a flame results. Some substances like paper and wood react easily to this process and set alight very quickly.

Exhaust gases are also produced and if the fire is clean you do not see these, but some fires produce thick black smoke which contains toxic gases and even a small amount of this, three deep breaths, can kill you. To be safe you need to remain underneath the layer of smoke when escaping, crawling if needed.

3. Heating Safety



- Always clean up any spillages thoroughly.
- Always use a full protective fire guard when children, infirm people or pets are in the room. Always ensure it is in place when you leave the room.
- Ensure the chimney is swept at least once a year (or flues checked if it is a gas fire) All heating appliances should also be checked regularly by a qualified person.
- Never place flammable materials, like curtains or chairs, near a fire or heater. Never put clothes to dry on a heater. Heat travels and can easily set things alight!
- Be careful not to place portable heaters where they can be knocked or tripped over. Also ensure that the air vents are kept clear and do not over heat.

4. Electrical Safety

- Do not overload electrical sockets.
- Always unplug appliances when you have finished with them. Have you ever noticed how hot the plug can get.
- Make sure your electrical goods do not pre date the EU safety standards. If you are unsure, get it checked by a qualified electrician.
- Do not cover cables or leave them uncoiled. They need to be ventilated and checked for any broken covering.



5. Smoking



- Stub cigarettes out properly using only a proper ashtray
- Don't leave a lit cigarette lying around
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach
- Never smoke in bed
- Take care if smoking when you are tired or been drinking as you might fall asleep and set fire to yourself

6. Using Gas in the Home



Gas can be supplied in different ways : through the mains pipe, delivered to a storage tank, or purchased in portable bottles of different sizes. The main danger arises from the fact that gas cannot be seen and can collect without us knowing, causing an unexpected explosion.

- Have appliances professionally installed and maintained regularly
- Make sure you have enough ventilation, as recommended by the manufacturer
- Follow storage and disposal advice fully
- Use a gas detector

7. Candle Safety

- Do not place candles near flammable material such as curtains, make sure they are fully extinguished before leaving the room.
- Heat travels and can easily set things a light!
- Always use sturdy holders and do not leave lit candles unattended. They can easily be knocked over by children, pets or even the wind!
- Keep torches handy in case of a power cut. They are much safer than candles.



8. Smoke Alarms

- Check your smoke alarm every week. Push the button, not your luck!
- Give your smoke alarm a birthday
- Change your battery every year on a date that you can remember easily, like your birthday.
- Change your smoke alarm every 10 years. Like most electrical goods they can stop working at some point, it is better to change them before they stop working
- Have at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home. These need to be in the hallways as they are your escape routes.
- If you wear a hearing aid, can you hear the alarms when you are not wearing the hearing aid, e.g At night.



9. Grass Fires

Most grass fires are caused by cigarettes thrown from car windows but discarded glass bottles can also concentrate the sun's rays and set light to dry grass. Campfires and barbeques are also dangerous if not watched or properly put out.

10. Extinguishers

What it looks like	What it uses	When to use it
	<p>Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)</p>	<p>Live electrical equipment when it is not possible to isolate the electric supply. Flammable liquids such as grease, fats, oil, petrol etc. Not on domestic chip or fat pan fires.</p>
	<p>Dry Powder Multi Use</p>	<p>Can be used on fires involving organic solids, liquids such as grease, fats, oil, paint, petrol, etc Not on chip or fat pan fires.</p>
	<p>Foam</p>	<p>Fires involving solids. Liquids such as grease, fats, oil, paint, petrol, etc Not on domestic chip or fat pan fires.</p>
	<p>Water</p>	<p>Fires involving organic solid materials such as wood, cloth, paper, plastics, Coal etc.</p>