

# Person-Centred Fire Risk Assessment



Tasmania Fire Service

This form is used to assess a client's characteristics and/or behaviours that could pose potential fire risk and/or impact on their capacity to evacuate and understand personal safety. Depending on the nature of the fire risk posed by a client's behaviour and/or level of skills, a number of options and strategies should be considered to address the situation. Information regarding possible options and strategies is provided.

Name of client/occupant

Full address

Date

Form completed by

## 1. Does the individual have an increased fire risk?

### Yes

If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit.

### No

Skip to the next question.

Smoking- with signs of unsafe use of smoking (e.g., smoking in bed).  
Use of emollient creams that are petroleum or paraffin based.  
Air pressure mattress or oxygen cylinders are used.  
Unsafe use of portable heaters (e.g., placed too close to materials that could catch fire).  
Unsafe cooking practices (e.g., cooking left unattended).  
Overloading electrical sockets/adaptors or extension leads.  
Faulty or damaged wiring.  
Electric blankets used.  
Previous fires or near misses, burns, scorch marks on carpets and furniture.  
Unsafe use of candle/tea light use (e.g., left too close to curtains or other items that could catch fire or within easy reach of children or pets).  
Significant hoarding: **Clutter Image Rating** if available  
Other (please specify):

## 2. Would the individual be less able to react to an alarm of a fire, e.g. smoke alarm?

### Yes

If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit.

### No

Skip to the next question.

Mental health issues (e.g. anxiety and/or depression).  
Cognitive or a health condition affecting decision-making (e.g. dementia).  
Alcohol dependant or use of prescription or recreational drugs.  
Sensory impairments (hard of hearing or sight loss).  
Other (please specify):

## 3. Does the individual have a reduced ability to escape?

### Yes

If yes, tick all the fire risk factors they exhibit.

### No

Skip to the next question.

Have restricted mobility, are frail, slow movement or has a history of falls.  
Blind or vision impaired.  
Lacks capacity to understand what to do in an event of a fire.  
Is a hoarder, or there are cluttered or blocked escape routes.  
Are bed or chair bound.  
Would be unable to unlock front door to escape.  
Other (please specify):

## 4. Is there any fire safety equipment fitted within the home?

### Yes

Smoke alarms are working and maintained.  
If yes, specify which rooms have them fitted:

### No

Smoke alarms are linked to the client's personal alarm.

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## What to do next?

Any questions that have been answered 'Yes', or you have identified that there are no working smoke alarms fitted, (or they are broken or incorrectly installed), suggests there is an increased risk of fire. Immediate actions are required to ensure safety measures are in place. Depending on the nature of the fire risk posed by the client's behaviour and level of skills, several options and strategies should be considered to address the situation. It is important to note that any behaviour issues should be documented and addressed as part of a care support plan. Further action could include:

- Providing your client with the Tasmania Fire Service home fire safety brochure and relevant fact sheets.
- Discussing the identified risks with your client and/or their family members.
- Discussing referral for supports and/or installation of fire safety equipment.
- If a Care Plan exists, document actions taken to mitigate risks in the plan.
- If you are employed by an organisation, discuss and pass this checklist to your Line Manager.
- If applicable, inform the Housing Provider that there is an increased risk to fire of the occupant.

The Tasmania Fire Service website contains many home fire safety education resources to provide your client and to use to discuss fire safety. Fact sheets and bulk ordering of booklets can be accessed online [fire.tas.gov.au](http://fire.tas.gov.au)

## Prevention

- It is safer not to smoke; but anyone who does should try to smoke outside and always make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
- Never smoke in bed, or anywhere else, if there's a chance of falling asleep.
- Use high sided ashtrays and fire-retardant bedding, nightwear and throws.
- Ensure paraffin based emollient creams are replaced with non-flammable alternatives.
- Candles, tea lights and incense burners should only be placed in stable, heat-resistant holders. Keep these items or any other type of naked flame well away from curtains, furniture and clothes.
- Sit and have items at least two metres away from heaters and keep them well away from anything that can catch alight.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.
- Close all doors at night as this helps to prevent fire and smoke spreading.
- Switch off and unplug electrical items such as TVs and avoid charging devices like mobile phones whilst asleep.
- Regularly clean chimneys and flues.

## Early warning and detection of a fire is essential

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of the home and in every room where people sleep.
- Fitting multiple interconnected smoke alarms, that all activate together, is the best way to be alerted in the event of a fire. For some, smoke alarms linked to a personal alarm may also be beneficial.
- Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape e.g. strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing.
- Vacuum smoke alarms to remove dust and cobwebs every six months and test all alarms monthly.

## Escape

- Make sure escape routes are kept clear of anything that may slow down or block exit routes.
- Ensure security gates can be easily opened from the inside without the need for a key. Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.
- Mobility aids and any methods of calling for help should always be kept close to hand (e.g. mobile phone, link alarm/pendant).
- Know how to call 000.

DATE	ACTION	FOLLOW UP DATE / WHO	NAME / ROLE	REVIEWED DATE