

South Yorkshire Dementia Action Alliances: Dementia Fire & Home Safety Project

What to Expect from a Free Home Safety Check

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) carries out the FREE Home Safety Checks in South Yorkshire.

The following provides details of how the Home Safety Check will be carried out.

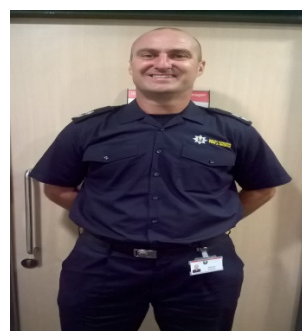
1. Having received the request for the Home Safety Check to be carried out SYFR will get in touch with the main contact to arrange a suitable date and time to carry out the check. The check will take up to 40 minutes.

As the carer/family/friend of someone living with dementia it would be good if they were also present when the check is carried out. The carer, family or friend will be able to help the person living with dementia to understand things and help them to make any changes they may need to make in their home to ensure they stay safe.

2. The Firefighters or Community Safety Team staff carrying out the Home Safety Check will arrive either in a SYFR fire engine or other fire service vehicle and this will be parked outside the home or close to it.



3. All SYFR Firefighters or Community Safety Team staff will be wearing their SYFR uniform and will have their identity card with them.



If there is any doubt as to whether a caller is a genuine SYFR employee ask to see their staff ID card. On the back of the card, there should be a Freephone 0800 917 6119 number, which can be used to find out if the visitor is genuine.



4. 2, 3 or 4 members of staff will come in to the house to carry out the Home Safety Check, being respectful that it is a home. The majority of SYFR staff have received training in Dementia Awareness and are Dementia Friendly.
5. The SYFR staff carrying out the Home Safety Check will talk about fire and home safety and will look at and discuss a number of things including:
 - Suitable working smoke alarms
 - Overloaded electrical sockets/extension cables
 - Fire risks linked to cooking, heating, smoking etc.
 - A Safe from Fire bedtime routine
 - A fire action plan
6. If smoke alarms need fitting the staff will fit these during the Home Safety Check visit.
7. If a number of risks are found it may be that additional visits are carried out to look at these in more detail to help the person living with dementia to stay safe. Information may also be provided about assistive technology e.g. telecare or city wide alarms.
8. Once the Home Safety Check has been completed SYFR staff will leave an information sheet about the check including a summary of any actions needed and/or carried out.
9. If the Home Safety Check is carried out by SYFR Firefighters, they will be on call and may be called out to deal with a 999 emergency so may not attend or have to leave early. If this happens you will then need to ring **0114 253 2314** or e-mail: cfsadmin@syfire.gov.uk to arrange another suitable time.

“Having the home safety check done for my mum was really good. It helped to ease my mind and reduce my stress about her still living alone”.