

## THE SIMPLE FACTS...

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service still attend a surprising number of chimney fires every year, with the winter months being the busiest due to the cold weather. If you have a chimney in your home make sure it is clean and safe for use.

## THE CAUSE OF CHIMNEY FIRES...

Chimney fires occur when flammable deposits that have built up in the chimney and flue, such as soot, or obstructions such as bird and animal nests, leaves or debris catch fire.



### How we can help...

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service offers free home fire safety visits, whereby our staff visit your home to offer fire safety advice for you and your household.

Book a visit online or contact us via our **Fire Safety Advice Line** on **01609 788545**.

For more information on fire safety, visit **[www.northyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk)**

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Headquarters  
Thurston Road  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL6 2ND

Tel: 01609 780150

16461\_Aug 2018



**NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



**NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

## PREVENTING CHIMNEY FIRES

### Keep fire in its place

[www.northyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk)



## TAKE ACTION...

### Keep your home safe with these top tips:

- Regular cleaning of your chimney or flue keeps it clear from a build-up of soot and obstructions such as bird and animal nests, leaves and debris.
- Chimneys should be swept by a trained person (this is guidance only);
  - At least once a year for smokeless fuel
  - At least twice a year (or quarterly) for wood and bituminous coal.
- The best time to get your chimney swept is before the start of the heating season, when your fire/wood burner hasn't been used for a prolonged period.
- Have your chimney flue inspected regularly (at least once a year) to ensure that it is in good condition.
- Check the roof space regularly, when a fire is lit, to ensure that smoke is not leaking into the roof space.



- Don't use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.
- Wood should be dry and well-seasoned – this usually takes about two years.
- Always use an appropriate fireguard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.
- Have wood burners/multi-fuel stoves installed and serviced by competent engineers, and in line with building standards (building regulations).
- Don't store logs too close to fires and wood burners, as radiated heat can cause them to catch fire.
- Make sure that your fire is well ventilated and enough air is coming into the room. Don't block air bricks or vents.
- Fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. If you're a landlord ensure you are complying with the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulation 2015.

- Make sure embers are under control and extinguished properly before you go out or go to bed.
- Make sure ash and embers are cold before putting them in a wheelie bin.

### If a chimney fire occurs...

- **Dial 999** and ask for the **Fire & Rescue Service**.
- Don't use your fire again after a chimney fire until you have had it inspected, as the fire may have caused damage to the flue/chimney structure.

