

# Home Fire Safety Risk Referral Matrix

Risk	Fire risk factors	Control measures to be taken by LFB crews to mitigate immediate risk	Actions for consideration by Care Providers to mitigate medium and long term risk
<b>High Risk A</b>	<p>As in High Risk B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult social care review outcome is to move resident to care home or warden assisted sheltered accommodation due to severity of fire risk.</li> <li>• Resident refuses to be re-housed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV.</li> <li>• Fit single point smoke detection in escape route (hall) and areas of risk.</li> <li>• Refer to LA via Serious Outstanding Risk (SOR) process for case management and provision of specialist fire alarms/equipment.</li> <li>• Consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider fitting domestic Automatic Fire Suppression System (AFSS) e.g. sprinklers.</li> <li>• Minimum of BS5839 part 6 Grade F LD2 fire detection and alarm system, interlinked.</li> <li>• Fire alarm to be monitored by a Telecare (social alarm) monitoring centre.</li> <li>• Consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>
<b>High Risk B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability of resident to react to fire or smoke alarm actuating due to mobility difficulties or decision making difficulties, Dementia, hoarding (level 5 or above).</li> <li>• Signs of high fire risk such as careless disposal of cigarettes, signs of cooking being left on or other high risk of fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV.</li> <li>• Fit single point smoke detection in escape route (hall) and areas of risk.</li> <li>• Refer to LA via Serious Outstanding Risk process (SOR) for case management and provision of specialist fire alarms/equipment.</li> <li>• Consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider fitting domestic Automatic Fire Suppression System (AFSS) e.g. sprinklers.</li> <li>• Care/housing review.</li> <li>• Minimum of BS5839 part 6 Grade F LD2 fire detection and alarm system, interlinked.</li> <li>• Fire alarm to be monitored by a Telecare (social alarm) monitoring centre.</li> <li>• Consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Risk A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to high fire risk and evidence of fire risk behaviours such as careless disposal of cigarettes, signs of cooking being left on or other high risk of fire but resident is able to respond to fire alarm and leave the premises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV.</li> <li>• Fit single point smoke detection in escape route (hall) and areas of risk.</li> <li>• Refer to LA via Serious Outstanding Risk process (SOR) for case management and provision of specialist fire alarms/equipment and consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum BS5839 part 6 Grade F LD2 fire detection and alarm system including smoke and heat detection, interlinked.</li> <li>• Consider other control measures such as fire retardant bedding and safer ashtrays.</li> </ul>
<b>Above this black line – refer as Serious Outstanding Risk.</b>			
<b>Medium Risk B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more fire risk factors with no evidence of fire risk behaviours (see above).</li> <li>• No working smoke alarms or one smoke alarm in escape route (hall).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV.</li> <li>• Fit single point smoke detection in escape route (hall) and areas of risk.</li> <li>• Where more than one detector is required (existing or by LFB) recommend that they should be interlinked.</li> </ul>	No further action required.
<b>Low Risk A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No fire risk factors (see reverse).</li> <li>• No smoke alarms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV.</li> <li>• Fit single point smoke detection in escape route (hall) and areas of risk.</li> <li>• Where more than one detector is installed (existing or by LFB), recommend that they should be interlinked.</li> </ul>	No further action required.
<b>Low Risk B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke alarm fitted correctly in hall/landing at each level of the dwelling and interlinked.</li> <li>• No fire risk factors (see reverse).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full HFSV giving lifestyle advice to reduce risk.</li> </ul>	No further action required.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

- **This referral matrix is a guide only and all factors should be considered in each case.**
- Advice on prevention of fire specific to the individual's circumstances should always be given.
- In all cases where welfare concerns are identified the case should be referred via the Serious Outstanding Risk process.
- Where more than one detector is already installed check that they are working and recommend that they should be interlinked.
- For all cases where we fit more than one of our standard single-point smoke detectors, we must inform the resident that interlinked smoke detection should be fitted and why.
- Above the black line refer as Serious Outstanding Risk. The HFSV and installation of alarms has not reduced the risk of fire to the resident sufficiently. Tick the Serious Outstanding Risk box on HFSV database record and initiate discussion with the Station Manager on possible solutions.
- Examples of infirmity that could effect the ability to respond or escape may include;
  - Mental health e.g. Dementia, confusion, Alzheimer's disease.
  - Physical health e.g. use of a walking stick, frame or wheelchair, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), stroke, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, speech impediment.

## FIRE RISK FACTORS

- Previous fires.
- Burns on carpets, furniture or clothes.
- Evidence of unsafe candle use.
- Poor quality/damaged wiring.
- History of falls.
- Dementia.
- Evidence of mobility difficulties.
- Hoarding disorder.
- Decision making difficulties.
- Carelessness with smoking and smoking materials.
- Careless with cooking practices.
- Alcohol/drug use.
- Home oxygen user.
- Sensory impairment (hard of hearing/deaf)?
- Unsafe use of electrical equipment – overloaded sockets/ extension leads, unsafe use of portable heaters i.e. too close to combustible materials.

## WELFARE RISK FACTORS

- No heating and/or lighting.
- No food.
- Vermin infestation.
- Neglect of property.
- Broken windows.
- Hoarding.

## EXTRACTS FROM BS5839 PART 6

relating to grade and category of system for domestic fire alarms.

(This should not be read out of context of the whole standard) If any party is instructed to design a fire detection and fire alarm system for a dwelling (e.g. by means of a purchase or tender specification), the instruction should include a clear reference to the Grade and category of system required.

**Grade D:** A system of one or more mains-powered smoke alarms, each with an integral standby supply. (The system may, in addition, incorporate one or more mains-powered heat alarms, each with an integral standby supply).

**Grade E:** A system of one or more mains-powered smoke alarms with no standby supply. (The system may, in addition, incorporate one or more heat alarms, with or without standby supplies).

**Grade F:** A system of one or more battery-powered smoke alarms. (The system may, in addition, also incorporate one or more battery-powered heat alarms.) In the case of Grade D, Grade E and Grade F systems, where more than one smoke alarm is installed the smoke alarms normally need to be interlinked. Any heat alarms also need to be interlinked with the smoke alarms.

**Category LD1:** A system installed throughout the dwelling, incorporating detectors in all circulation spaces that form part of the escape routes from the dwelling, and in all rooms and areas in which fire might start, other than toilets, bathrooms and shower rooms.

**Category LD2:** A system incorporating detectors in all circulation spaces that form part of the escape routes from the dwelling, and in all rooms or areas that present a high fire risk to occupants (see Clause 4).

**Category LD3:** A system incorporating detectors in all circulation spaces that form part of the escape routes from the dwelling.

**NOTE:** Whilst designed for London Fire brigade staff, this matrix is available for use by all parties involved in the care and protection of vulnerable people as a guide to reducing the risk of death or injury from fire through consistent and appropriate risk control measures.