



## Topic: - False Alarms

### False Activation of Smoke Alarm by Non Fire Conditions

#### The help and advice you need to keep vulnerable people safe

First of all we would never want to discourage anyone from making an emergency 999 call or operating a fire alarm, if they genuinely believe there is a fire.

#### However, please consider that each false alarm diverts emergency vehicles away from real emergencies

Over the last two weeks crews within Western Service Delivery Group have responded to 9 emergency calls where the Smoke Alarm has falsely operated due to non-fire conditions with the activations being as a result of cooking fumes, burnt toast, smoking fumes etc.,

Our main concern is that frequent false alarms in a building or home can cause staff/occupiers to become complacent and less willing to react when a fire alarm actuates as a result of a real fire.

If your smoke alarm sounds, never assume it is a false alarm.



### Our Community - What can you do to help

#### Our Community – Home owners

<https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/your-safety/safety-at-home/smoke-alarms/>

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service recommend that the following alarms are sited as detailed:-

The general rule is quite easy

- **Kitchen and Garage** - Heat alarms
- **Landings** - Ionisation smoke alarms or combined optical smoke and heat alarms
- **Bedrooms, living rooms and hallway** - Optical smoke alarms or combined optical smoke and heat alarms

The **fitting of heat alarms** in these areas will reduce the number of false activation due to cooking fumes etc.,

If you are not sure what type of alarms that you have fitted in your property or you need some additional advice or support please contact our contact centre on **0800 0241 999** or please access our website <https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/your-safety/safe-and-well/> for details of our FREE safe and well service where we can offer you advice or arrange for a Fire Service Representative to visit your home.





### Sheltered Scheme Owners - What you can do to help

#### How to help prevent false activations:-

- Seek advice from your local Prevention Team who want to support your residents  
We can offer Fire Safety Talks to groups  
We can visit your residents in their home; we can look at where they have their cooking equipment is sited in relation to the smoke alarm, we can offer general Fire Safety Advice
- Ensure that your residents do not smoke in communal areas
- Ensure that any doors between their residence and the communal areas are closed
- Investigate all false alarms and look at what you can do to stop them happening again

**Please Ensure that all your residences are aware of any emergency procedures that you have in place**

### Your local prevent team

It's important that we do our best together to reduce the risks from fire in your homes. Please let us know if you think someone maybe vulnerable from fire or you need some general Fire Safety advice

Please give us a call and have a chat with your Community Safety Officers. Service is completely confidential.

**01785 898719 or email: - [wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk)**

**In the event of an emergency get out, stay out and dial 999**

Have you participated in any of our online **Olive Branch workshops**? A workshop is held every month and is promoted via Eventbrite. Free to attend

If you would like to learn more about our Olive Branch Workshops please contact us on [SDGRoomEnquiries@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:SDGRoomEnquiries@staffordshirefire.gov.uk)

