



**Diane Pasfield, Safeguarding Officer
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.**



ECFRS receive requests for Safe and Well visits which include the fitting of 10 year smoke alarms free of charge to all domestic properties (not rented as the landlord has responsibility for this) in Essex.

These requests are triaged and prioritised into groups of low, medium or high risk.

I receive the high risk requests to visit as soon as possible as they represent the most vulnerable in our communities. These would include those who have complex medical conditions, those who are confined to the property due to medical or mobility, hoarders or collectors of large amounts of items. All of these require more time and specific home safety advice.

The easiest way to make people safer in their homes is to provide tailored home safety advice and to fit working smoke alarms. I fit standard smoke alarms with a 10 year battery in a sealed unit – this prevents the batteries from being taken out at Christmas for toys.

I also fit sensory alarm systems for those who have hearing loss and take their hearing aids out at night time. The sensory system includes a flashing light next to their bed and a vibrating pad that sits under the mattress or pillow and will vibrate if the system is actuated in the event of a fire.

All we ever ask is that everyone evacuates from the home as soon as possible taking everyone with them, phone the fire service straight away from outside or at a neighbour's home. Dial 999 – we only have one number and if it is a false alarm that is fine as long as you are all safe and well.

Don't go looking for the cause, we can do that we have all the equipment, personal protection and expertise.

I can provide people who are confined to their bed or chair and are smokers and are not willing to give up smoking with fire retardant bedding, just in case they accidentally drop their lit cigarette onto their bed sheets.

I also give advice on slips ,trips and falls hazards, crime prevention (yes I have completed the course), the use of mobility devices, the continuous use of emollient creams that are oil based along with how to reduce clutter (the items in your home).

If any room in the home has piles of items that average around your knee/thigh height please ask for a ECFRS Safe and Well. I am aware of several organisations/charities/local authorities who may be able to help give advice or provide services to support members of our community to continue to live safely in their homes.

It is important to ensure that all your emergency escape routes are clear. Why? Because in the event of a fire, you WILL be scared, shocked, confused and you WILL NOT see your hand in front of your face, let alone the vacuum cleaner or box you left in the hall or on the stairs until you trip and fall when rushing to leave.

All of these points are important if residents are having carers or cleaners into their homes as this becomes a place of work. We have to look out and think of safety for everyone who enters. To help inform our firefighters on route; I can add annotations to addresses on the ECFRS Emergency Mobilising System to indicate these premises require these extra hazards such as being confined to property or bed and high clutter ratings to be planned they enter.

At the end of it all the main aim is to give information and advice to help people live safer in their homes. Request a Safe and Well Visit: -
www.essex-fire.gov.uk/book-home-safety-visit
or phone 0300 303 0088
or email home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk

THIS IS BEING DELIVERED BY YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR :-



WELCOME to the six monthly newsletter for 2024.

It helps to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch also compliments the Braintree District NW weekly newsletter (every week for fifteen years) by email . Over the past six months there has been an increase in membership of Neighbourhood Watch in Braintree , Witham and Halstead. Why not look at www.essexnwa.co.uk and click on Braintree for more information. Also look the main menu "Taking Part" to scroll down to see the video for those who are hard of hearing. We provide not only newsletters but various NW items such as No cold caller stickers, NW wheelie bin stickers , purse bells and chains, TV simulators and much more. You may wonder why there are articles from Braintree District Community Safety Partnership and Essex Fire & Rescue Service well they both support Neighbourhood Watch ! If you are interested in being part of NW where you live (it is FREE) please contact Clive Stewart Chairman Braintree District NW Tel 0750 8057636 or email braintreenwsg@btinternet.com



Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a group of organisations with the shared goals of reducing crime and the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug misuse and reducing re-offending. In our area these organisations include Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service, NHS, housing providers and local support services, Essex County Council (Education) and Community360 (voluntary sector). Throughout the year partners work together to deliver successful projects and initiatives against identified key priorities. Many of these are aimed at raising awareness, education and

prevention as these add value to the work delivered by local agencies on a daily basis. Chris English, Community Safety Officer at Braintree District Council, said: "In the past, we have looked at the crime figures to see what they show and set our priorities around them. It was hard for all of our partners to see how they could get involved with combatting crime. We have found that, by talking to our partner agencies, we will get more people involved if we work more positively and look at prevention instead. "So, this year, we are focusing on protecting the vulnerable, promoting healthy relationships, keeping safe online, building community resilience and promoting safety in our communities. "It is all about getting as many partners on board to look at early intervention, looking at any gaps in provision and encouraging new ways of working and supporting the most vulnerable in our community. "It is great that we have all these partners who really want to be involved. Not one agency can solve these problems." This year, the partnership has been allocated £17,739 from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Fund. Recent work includes funding the domestic abuse charity Next Chapter to deliver a Child to Parent Violence and Abuse course to families of children aged seven to 18, and increased support to those at risk of losing their rented or social housing due to antisocial behaviour, substance misuse or domestic abuse. The CSP has previously funded Neighbourhood Watch signs, and recognises and values the important role active neighbourhood watch schemes play in improving safety and reducing the fear of crime within our communities. For more information on the CSP visit – www.braintree.gov.uk/community/community-safety-partnership

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