



**SUBJECT:** Stay Fire Safe Whilst Staying In

**RECIPIENTS:** All Council Services (including schools)

**ISSUE DATE:** April 2020      **REF:** HSB 161

## *As millions adjust to life working from home, fire-fighters urge us all to stay safe.*

The majority of workers are now following Government advice to avoid all but essential travel in a bid to try and contain the spread of Covid-19. With an increased numbers of people at home during the day, London Fire Brigade (LFB) is warning of the potential for more fires as people adapt their daily work routines, or self-isolate, and is calling for people to think, take action and avoid becoming a further casualty for the NHS. LFB had already seen an increase in weekday fires, and fires earlier than usual in the day, so fire-fighters are warning that common causes of fires in the home can become even more prevalent as people spend more time indoors than usual.

### **Common causes of fire in the home:**

**Cooking fires** are a major concern, as people are expected to cook more during the day. With schools shut and children at home, parents can also be distracted.



**Smoking-related fires**, which are the most common cause of fire deaths in homes, are also thought to be a possibility if smokers start smoking inside more frequently.

**Electrical risks**, as people who don't usually work from home set up temporary offices, there is a risk of an increase in electrical fires. Hazards include:

- 👉 overloading sockets    👉 using counterfeit or incorrect chargers for laptops and mobile phones
- 👉 'daisy-chaining,' i.e. plugging multiple extensions, or multi-socket adaptors, into a single socket.

### **Home Safety Checks:**

Basic fire safety awareness and some simple checks of the potential issues above will take just a few minutes to carry out, and help keep you and your family safe.

[Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue – Home Safety webpage](#)

