

# Mobile Homes / Caravans Fire Safety Tips.

A mobile home or caravan fire can be serious and have disastrous consequences for you, your family, and your belongings. There are on average 350-400 reported fires in mobile homes and caravans each year, and due to their construction, they offer little protection to stop the fire from spreading. By being aware of the potential dangers and following a few simple steps you can reduce those risks.

## Fire Extinguishers in Mobile Homes and Caravans.

Having a fire extinguisher will enable you to tackle a small fire and can minimise the risk of a fire from spreading and getting out of hand. Ensure everyone knows how to use the extinguisher and how to raise the alarm in the event of fire. We would recommend a Water Mist Extinguisher as it will tackle most small fires, including fires involving electrical equipment, such as: toasters, kettles and heaters.

Check the Extinguisher is located near an exit door and the pressure gauge is in the green.



# Smoke Alarms in Mobile Homes / caravans

Installing a smoke alarm in your mobile home will alert you and other occupants to the fire, enabling them to escape to safety. We would recommend an Optical Smoke Alarm to be fitted as they are designed to react quickly to smouldering fires, such as Soft Furnishings etc.

**Check the smoke alarm is working by pressing the test button weekly**



# Carbon Monoxide Alarms in Mobile Homes and caravans.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) has no colour, taste or smell and is known as the “Silent Killer”. A carbon monoxide alarm detects toxic gases produced by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels (gas, oil, coal and wood). All fossil fuel appliances, including cookers and other equipment that run off bottled gas should be serviced annually. Vents and flues should never be blocked, ensuring that air can circulate around the mobile home.

CO can be fatal and the only way to detect it is with a CO Alarm.

**Check the CO Alarm is working by pressing the test button weekly**



## Cooking Safety

When cooking in your mobile home, it is important that you never leave your cooker unattended, especially when children or pets are present. Turn the handles away from the edge of the cooker to reduce the risk of the pan being knocked off.

Make sure you have a fire blanket in your kitchen area, especially if you use a chip pan. Remember to check your fire blanket frequently to ensure it is still fit for purpose and has no signs of wear and tear. Ensure that there are no curtains, towels or other combustible materials hanging down near your cooker, and keep worktops near cooking equipment free from paper and other sources of fuel.



**Ensure the fire blanket is near to or adjacent to the cooker.**

# Electrical Appliances & Safety

Check appliances in your mobile home to ensure electrical wiring is in good order. Ideally, they should be tested regularly by a qualified electrician. Never use equipment that has damaged plugs or cables. Always ensure that cables are not wedged under heavy objects, as this could damage the internal wiring and cause a fire.

Make sure all heaters, cookers and tv sets are switched off last thing at night or when leaving your home. Never block or cover heaters as they can cause a fire.

It is important to not overload electrical sockets and avoid using multi-adaptors. If you need to use extension cables ensure that they are fully extended, as if they are rolled or knotted then this can cause them to overheat.

Gas Cylinders should be kept outside the home unless contained within a specially vented compartment or fireproof container.

## Escape Routes

Hopefully, you will never need to use it but make sure you have an escape plan if the worst should happen. Ensure you have a secondary escape route in case the main door is blocked by the fire, this may be through a window. Ensure everyone staying in your home familiarise themselves with your escape plan and how to open the windows etc.

Ensure the door and window keys where they can easily be located.

If there is smoke in your home, then try to keep as low as possible (below the smoke layer) as the air is clearer here. As soon as possible call the Fire & rescue service and do not re-enter your home. Always keep your exits clear of any trip hazards to ensure a fast and practical escape for all occupants.

## Smoking

Always ensure cigarettes are extinguished correctly and cannot reignite. Do not use plastic ashtrays as they can melt, please use metal or glass. Smoking in your bed is very dangerous, if you happen to fall asleep you could easily set fire to your bedding. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

# Safe Storage Advice

Empty Gas cylinders and wheelie bins should never be stored against your mobile home or fencing. These should be kept a safe distance away from your dwelling and other combustible surfaces to help prevent fire spreading should these catch fire.

Do Not store any combustible items/materials underneath your mobile home.

If you feel you would like any further information on Fire Safety within Mobile homes / caravans etc. or simply would like to make us aware of any Fire related issues, then please feel free to contact myself on the numbers below.

Kind Regards

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