

How safe is your home?

In the coming weeks and months there are some significant roadworks and road closures due to take place in and around the Ferndown area. Although we are working closely with the contractor and the Highways Agency, these roadworks could lengthen our response time should you be unlucky enough to experience a fire.

Dorset Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) wants to work with you to prevent anything happening in your home, especially since any unavoidable delays by even a few seconds could make a difference to you and your possessions. We already provide free Home Safety advice whereby, if appropriate, a firefighter or a Home Safety Advisor will visit your home and ensure each premises has the correct number of working smoke alarms, fitting or replacing them free of charge if needed, pointing out any potential risks and offering advice as to how they can be minimised. Each home is different in content and layout so visits are tailored to the person, their home and their own unique circumstances.

Station Commander at Ferndown Fire Station, Graham Kewley said: "We provide a free home safety check to all those in our at risk groups. Our aim is to visit as many premises as possible to ensure they are safe from fire, especially during the roadwork period when it might take us a little longer to get to you.

"In 2011, DFRS attended 439 accidental fires in the home. These could have been avoided if people were more aware of basic fire safety in their homes. Your home is full of potential fire risks; if you are aware of them you can ensure that you reduce the chances of a fire starting in your home. Knowing the dangers and taking precautionary measures could help to save the lives of you and your family."

DFRS are working hard to prevent avoidable fires and you can help us do that – if you would like a FREE home safety check, contact us. Alternatively, if you know of someone who may be vulnerable and would benefit from a visit, please get their permission and then contact us on their behalf to arrange an appointment.

To request a Free Home Safety Check call Freephone 0800 038 2323 or use the form found at www.dorsetfire.gov.uk