



SOLUTIONS ON FIRE

Issue 21, October 2011

Bringing you the latest in fire safety news, features and information. Receive our news daily on Twitter!

- ➔ **Student was Crushed to Death in Fire Evacuation Stampede**
Party-goers rushed for the exits in nightclub after fire alarm went off
- ➔ **Accommodation Block at Oxford University Bursts into Flames**
The fire started by dust on an extractor fan quickly spread through the building
- ➔ **A Millionaire Landlord was Jailed Following Serious Fire Safety Failings**
No fire alarm, no fire risk assessment, blocked fire escapes, no emergency lighting...
- ➔ **A Family in Kent is Saved by 9 Year Old Girl**
The brave girl put to practice the fire safety advice she had been given in school

- ➔ **"Push the button..."**
A group of Staffordshire fire-fighters has performed a live version of a fire safety video that has become a "viral" hit. Their cover of the original Sugarbabes' hit "Push the button" encourages people to regularly test their fire alarm. Click here to see video, it'll make you smile!

Your Warm Cuddly Friend may not be so Friendly!

Is your electric blanket safe?

As we are coming into the winter months and the temperature drops, many people are getting their electric blankets out to keep them warm throughout the night. Unfortunately though, there have been a lot of incidents over the past couple of months concerning electric blankets and authorities are now warning us of the hazards these blankets can bring us. News feeds are riddled with unfortunate events started by our *warm comfy friend* and it looks like these blankets could be an accident waiting to happen.

"A five-month-old baby has been taken to hospital after a fire broke out in a bedroom of a house in Edinburgh, caused by a faulty electric blanket."

"A man from Gloucestershire has died in a fire thought to have been caused by a faulty electric blanket." BBC

Current research by Fire & Rescue Services show us that each year 20 people

are killed and over 250 injured in electric blanket fires. Faulty blankets cause more than 1000 house fires a year. The combination of heat, electricity and flammable material (usually your bedding) and a sleeping occupant does immediately not sound like a good mix. There is a major risk of an electrical fire starting here and what makes matters worse is the fact the over 50% of the time the occupant will be asleep. No wonder it is a growing concern for fire safety officials across Britain.

Electric blankets require monitoring. Fire Safety requires monitoring. As a whole it is a manageable process and is well worth the little time it will take you to check. As a fire safety consultancy that deals primarily with fire safety in the workplace we do believe that fire safety should begin in your home. Checking your fire alarm/smoke alarm, windows, and

escape routes is all part of the management of fire safety. It is the life saver on which you will turn to in the event of a fire. A fire is devastating and is just not worth it.

Type in "Electric Blanket Safety Advice" into your search engine. Go to a reliable source and take the advice given. As 99% of electric blanket fires are started by blankets that are over 10 years old, I say to those, go and treat yourselves to a new one. The advice is simple and you can check it yourselves or if you don't feel comfortable doing so, there are plenty of services that will check it out for you. It will be even comfier knowing that you are safe.

For further information please visit us at our website www.solutionsfire.co.uk



New Government Campaign: Change your clock, test your smoke alarm!

A new advertising campaign by the Department of Communities and Local Government was launched on Monday 24th October in the run-up to the clocks going back, ending the British Summer time, on Sunday 30th October 2011. They are urging

people to make a potentially life-saving move when they change their clock on the weekend - by taking a moment to test

their smoke alarm too. *Fire Minister said:* "Everyone soon notices when a clock stop's ticking, but it's more difficult to be sure that your smoke alarm is still in working order. The only way to make sure is through regular testing."

The Government Chief Fire & Rescue Officer says: "You're more than four times as likely to die in a fire without a working smoke alarm. But despite the fact that nearly 250 people died in house fires last year, only half of the

people who own an alarm say they take the time to check that it's working. A working smoke alarm can give you the vital time you need to get out, stay out and call 999 in a house fire. As you put your clocks back take an extra moment to push the button on your alarm to make sure it is working properly - it could save your life."

[Click here to see new advert.](#)

