

## DANGER

### CHIMNEYS - THE MAJOR CAUSE

#### Check

Have the brickwork checked by a professional builder. When in doubt, fit a steel liner.

#### Cleaning

When used, have the chimney swept at least once a year.

#### Burning wood?

Soot builds up rapidly from wood fires. If wood is burnt, have the chimney swept twice a year.

### CHIMNEY POTS

#### Height

Where possible, the top of the pot should be 1.8m above the ridge

#### Spark arresters

Spark arresters can prevent fires but they must be kept clean.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

#### Link

If your home has a loft, fit one in the highest part of the roof void and link it to a second detector.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

#### Link

Fit the second detector in the hallway or landing. Link the two together, both will sound when just one is activated.

Detectors are recommended for all rooms regularly used.

#### Smoke

Smoke rises, Fit in the highest position possible in each room.

### PAINTERS & PLUMBERS

#### Blow Torches

Avoid where possible.

#### Fire extinguishers

Do not allow any work to be carried out unless the tradesman has an extinguisher next to him when blow torches are being used.

#### Double check

You should insist that work involving blow torches stops half an hour before the tradesman leaves your home. This is to allow time to check for smouldering debris.

#### Treble check

You should insist that all areas where blow torches have been used are treble checked for smouldering debris before the tradesman leaves your home.

#### Insurance check -

Ask for a letter from the builders'/tradesmans' insurers confirming that their Public Liability insurance policy provide cover for the 'the use of heat' in your home.

Reputable builders/tradesmen will not object to this reasonable request. No letter = no work.

## CHECK LIST

### The Safe Thatched Home

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chimney Brickwork checked |                                     |
| Chimneys swept            |                                     |
| Electrical check          |                                     |
| Smoke detectors           |                                     |
| Fire extinguishers        |                                     |
| Fire blanket              |                                     |
| <b>SAFE AS HOUSES</b>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



### OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

Make sure that the cables do not foul the building or nearby trees.

### DON'T BE BRAVE

On discovery of a fire, no matter how small, you should:

- evacuate the building.
- call the Fire & Rescue Service giving full name, address AND simple directions/landmarks.
- close all doors and windows and await the arrival of the Fire & Rescue Service.

### BONFIRES

#### Don't burn rubbish!

There is no real need to burn rubbish. Make sure that your neighbours are aware of the danger to your home from their bonfires.

### AT NIGHT

#### To sleep easy.....

- make sure that the cooker and heaters are turned off.
- Rake out open fires and make sure that a spark guard is in place.
- Finish your last cigarette or pipe and put it out properly. Check ashtrays for burning cigarettes or pipes and make sure the contents are cold before throwing them away.
- Unplug non-essential electrical equipment.
- Check the children's room, to make sure all appliances and portable fires are switched off there too.
- Close ALL doors. If there is a fire, closed doors will help prevent it spreading and protect your escape routes.

## DANGER

### ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

#### 5 year check

Electrical systems degrade with time. Have the system checked every 5 years by a competent electrical engineer.

Unplug non-essential electrical equipment when not in use particularly at night.

### HOSE REEL

It helps to have a stand pipe (lagged against frost) with a hose attached.

The hose should be able to reach all round the house.

