



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Winter Preparedness

London Fire Brigade



Introduction

- Late autumn and winter present an increase in safety risks due to seasonal changes and annual events/celebrations.
- This includes adverse conditions for drivers, the rise in alternative fuels being used for heating (especially with the impact of cost of living), and an increased likelihood for flooding, ice and snow.
- This period will also see a number of events where additional safety risks may be present, including religious & cultural celebrations and the New Year.
- London Fire Brigade is pushing key messaging over the winter months, to help prevent incidents and keep the public safe.

Winter 2025 – Key Messages

- **Fireworks:** Please attend a public display, rather than using fireworks at home. If you do choose to use fireworks, follow the Fireworks Code and check our [safety advice](#).
- **Candles:** Use flameless, LED candles. If using real flames, never leave them unattended, and keep them away from anything that could catch fire, including decorations.
- **Electrical:** If buying electrical goods, be sure to purchase from a reputable seller, and follow all instructions for charging and use. If buying an e-bike or e-scooter, please follow the advice of our [ChargeSafe campaign](#).

Winter 2025 – Key Messages

- **Heating:** If using a portable heater, maintain it, and keep it away from any flammable material. If using a solid fuel, gas, or paraffin heater, be aware of carbon monoxide risks and ensure you have a working alarm.
- **Road Safety:** Prepare for adverse conditions like snow and ice, check your vehicle regularly, avoid any distractions whilst driving, and never drive whilst intoxicated.
- **Water Safety:** Do not go on ice or frozen water, even if there is a person or animal in difficulty – call 999 and wait for assistance. And keep away from the edge of open water, especially in the dark or if you are intoxicated.

Winter 2025 – Key Messages

- **Flooding:** Pay attention to flood warnings, and if you live in an area with a high likelihood of flooding be prepared and know your evacuation route.
- **Cooking:** Follow our advice for cooking safely, including never leaving it unattended, being mindful of clothing and other flammable material, and avoiding cooking when tired or intoxicated.
- Ensure you have working **smoke alarms** in your property – you should test these regularly. You may also have a heat alarm in your kitchen, and a carbon monoxide alarm.

Home Fire Safety Checker



- If you are concerned about safety in the home, you can use our free [home fire safety checker](#) to assess your risks and receive advice.
- If necessary, we can follow up with a **Home Fire Safety Visit**, where firefighters come to your house to provide tailored advice, and fit smoke alarms if you do not have them.

LFB Website

For more detailed information, all of our safety advice is available on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/>

Or you can contact us on:
community.engagement@london-fire.gov.uk