



HEREFORD & WORCESTER  
**HWFRS**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# Chimney Fires

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service attend around 200 chimney and woodburner fires every year

## Is your chimney or woodburner due a clean?

To arrange for your chimney to be swept, it will take just:

- One phone call
- One-off modest payment
- One hour of your time

### Chimney fires have the potential to be very serious

If you notice a fire in your chimney, do not delay:

- **Call 999**
- We don't charge to attend a chimney fire at your house, but that doesn't mean it won't cost you. Chimney fires can often spread into the roof and can completely destroy your home.
- The average cost of a house fire is over £25,300

For details of approved chimney sweeps in your area visit:

- [www.apics.org.uk](http://www.apics.org.uk)
- [www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)
- [www.nacs.org.uk](http://www.nacs.org.uk)

[www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
Service Headquarters, 2 Kings Court, Charles Hastings Way,  
Worcester, WR5 1JR - Tel : 0845 12 24454



# CHIMNEY FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED



## *Keep it clean*

Your chimney must be kept clean to prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Clean chimneys also help the environment by assisting the complete combustion of the fuel, reducing emissions in the atmosphere. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flues eliminates the build-up of soot and clears obstructions such as bird and animal nests, leaves and debris.

Using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient to clean the chimney properly. Ensure your chimney flue is inspected at regular intervals to prevent fire breaking out of the chimney. Fireguards can prevent serious injury or death. Spark guards can prevent a serious fire in your property.

## *How often should chimneys be swept?*

- If using oil or gas, once a year
- If using smokeless fuels or bituminous coal, at least once a year
- Every 3 months for wood, when in use

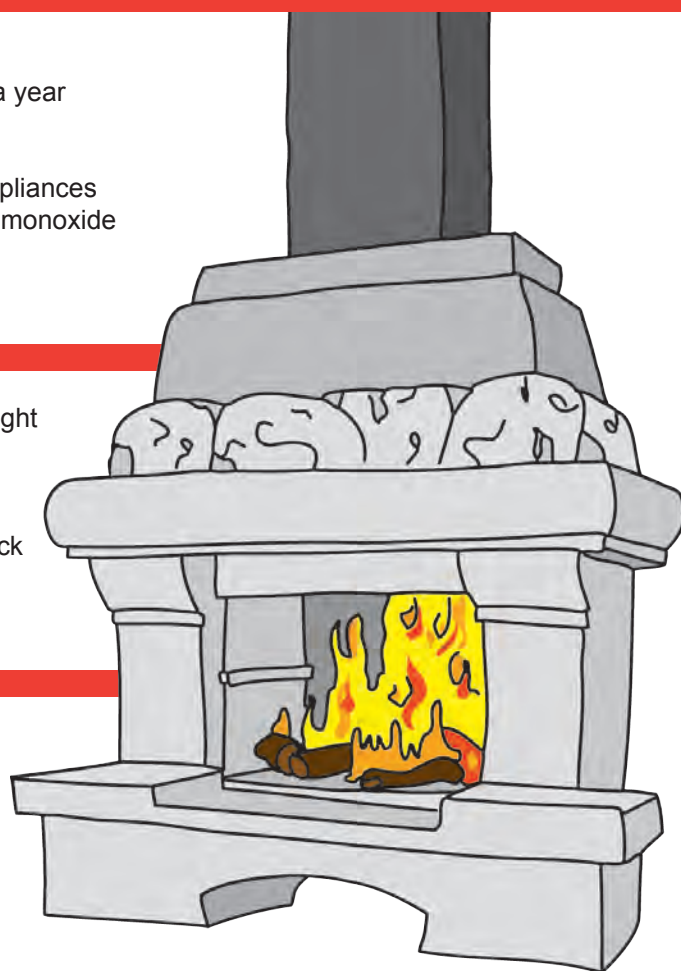
To avoid risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, always have appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.

## *Fire Prevention*

- **Never** use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire
- **Never** burn rubbish
- **Never** overload the fire with fuel
- **Do** go into the loft occasionally when the fire is alight to check for smoke from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints

## *If you do notice a chimney fire...*

- **Get out**
- **Stay out**
- **Get the Fire Service out**



For more information, visit our website at  
[www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)