

1. Background

Protection from fire and prevention of future deaths

The Fire Safety Order 2005 requires the identification of residents at risk as part of the fire safety risk assessment for the premises, this would include taking appropriate action to remove or reduce the risk.

2. Why it matters



A personal risk assessment for each resident is critical to their own safety and that of other residents and staff. This will assess the needs of the resident in conjunction with care workers and family. It will consider their habits, their physical and mental capacity and their environment.

The risk assessment should be recorded and considered as part of their care plan, other assessments and personal evacuation plans, and kept under review.

7. Questions to consider

- Is the resident a smoker?
- Are emollients being applied?
- Does this product contain paraffin?
- Is the resident's mobility reduced?

If yes, share the risks with the resident, their GP, nurse practitioner and family members.

ACT; consider an alternative product

6. What to do

This increased risk of fire posed by smoking whilst using flammable emollient creams is so significant that it must be avoided.

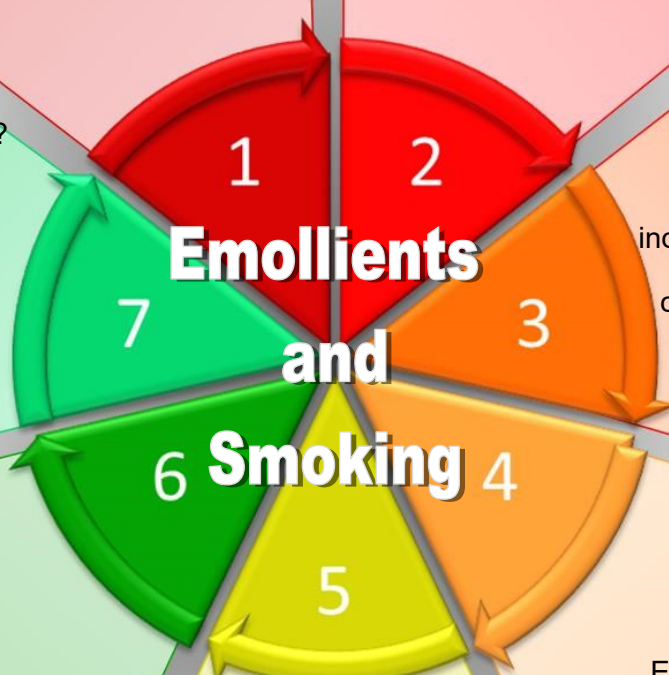
Fire retardant covers, bedding or clothing for smokers must always be provided. There must be sufficient numbers of these items to allow regular laundering at the correct temperature. This is the responsibility of the resident, the care provider, the care home or housing management provider and family members.

3. Information

Consider the risk posed by residents smoking on your premises. This follows inquests into the deaths from burn injuries of high-risk client smokers with mobility problems as a result of matches or cigarettes dropping on to clothing or bedding.

4.

Emollient creams are used to treat dry skin conditions. Certain creams can be highly flammable (e.g. those that are paraffin based) and pose a significant risk in the event of a fire. The fire risk posed by the use of such emollient creams is significantly increased when the resident is smoking. The resident's bedding and clothing can also become impregnated with cream, increasing flammability and the risk to the resident.



Emollients and Smoking

5.

The use of emollient creams must be considered in your fire risk assessment to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to reduce the risk of a fire and its likelihood of occurring.