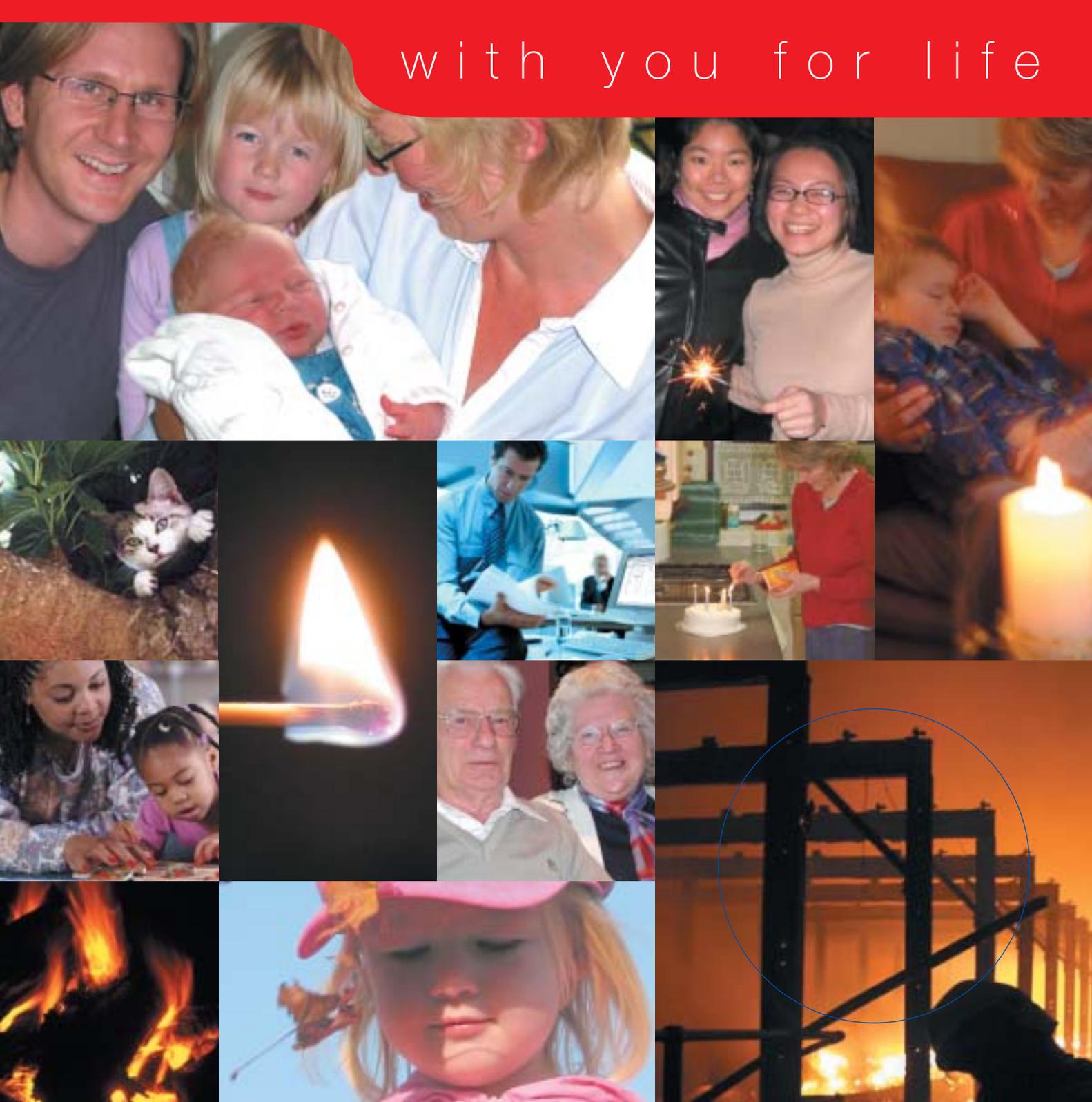


with you for life



Most people feel safe in their own home, but unfortunately it is in the home where the overwhelming majority of fire deaths and injuries occur.

That's why **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service** is doing more than it has ever done to make Essex safe, and investing significant resources in preventative, educational work.

Through our community safety initiatives, we are **with you for life**.

we are with you for life...

# home safety in the early years

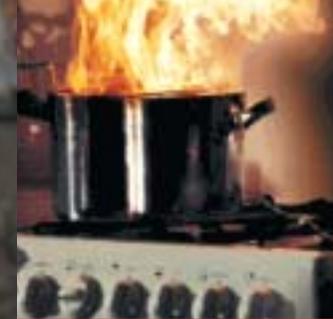
With new life comes responsibility and it's time to rely on common sense. There is absolutely no doubt that smoke alarms save lives, so there's no excuse not to have one! Before you bring a new baby into your home, get one fitted. It's the best protection your family can have.

Our firefighters have witnessed families who have had their lives devastated by ignoring this simple advice. When you fit a smoke alarm, be sure to test it regularly.

Keeping baby warm will be a key priority, so it could be worth investing in a simple carbon monoxide indicator near gas boilers and fires. Don't forget to have appliances tested regularly by a professional.



The kitchen is a place full of hazards and there are plenty of distractions for new mums and dads. Never leave chip pans or deep fat fryers unattended or gas rings burning if you hear baby cry.



if you or your partner still smoke... always make sure smoking material is fully extinguished

chip pans are one of the major causes of fire in the home... never leave them unattended



fit fire guards... to electric, gas and open fires



we all use candles in our homes... never leave candles burning in rooms you are not in



most modern fibres are fire retardant... but always read the safety label



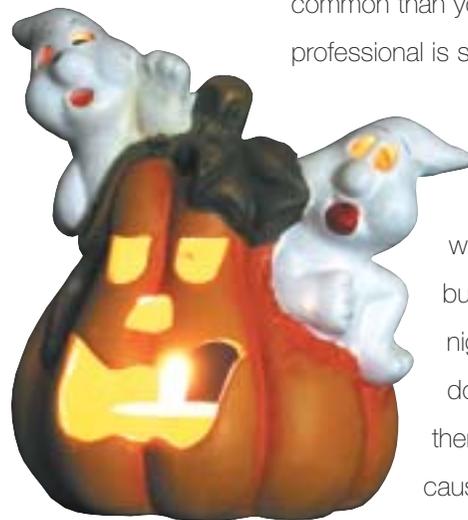
... as your family grows

# growing families new challenges

We all face new challenges, keeping our families safe as they grow. From those first few steps, inquisitive toddlers will seek out danger – it's a fact of life, and a burning flame can be an irresistible challenge.

Now's the time to be investing in a fire guard, not just for open fires. Gas fire surrounds get very hot and can burn young fingers in seconds. Kettle leads and hot pans need to be kept well out of reach.

Never allow your young children to play with matches, lighters or candles and talk to us if one of your children appears to have an inexplicable fascination for fire – it's more common than you think and early intervention by a trained professional is sometimes all it takes.



On special nights of the year, such as Halloween, pay particular attention to where you hang your lanterns and never leave burning candles unattended. On Guy Fawkes' night, make sure the fireworks are kept safe – don't allow children to light them or play with them, they are explosives after all and can cause serious injury in the wrong hands.



check your smoke alarms at least once a year... remember smoke alarms save lives

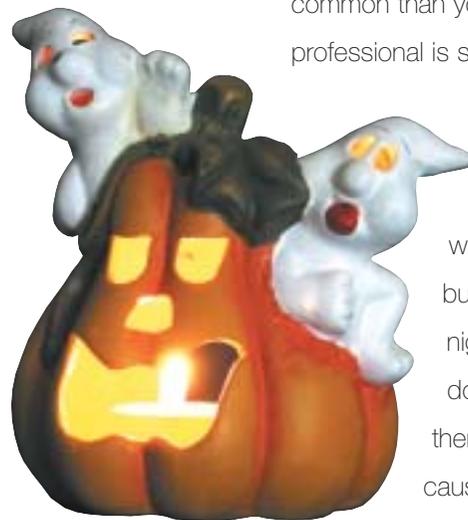
kitchen fires devastate homes... fire blankets are readily available and can extinguish small fires before they take hold



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never let children play with candles, lighters or matches... keep them safely out of reach



keep your family safe on firework night... never leave children unattended near the bonfire



never allow children to ignite fireworks... explosives can kill, always follow the firework code



...thinking safety from the start

# thinking safety from the start

Once youngsters start to think for themselves, we like to tackle safety issues head on.

Our aim is to visit young people three times during their school days, providing educational advice in a range of unique presentations including theatre and character role play.

Our messages are tailored specifically for their age group and current issues.

Young people have an empathy with firefighters and community liaison officers who give talks and demonstrations are trained to gain their attention. We would ask that parents reinforce the messages at home and are receptive to the ideas and discussions prompted by our visit.

Making a safety plan is something the whole family should get involved in, stressing the seriousness of making hoax calls and talking about the dangers of fire setting and arson.

Many youngsters will experiment with fire but it's important to recognise experimentation from the type of behaviour that might result in a juvenile court appearance, or being taken into Social Services' care.



children will hold a fascination for fire... we aim to make them understand the hazards

teaching juniors the importance of fire safety... with visits to local schools



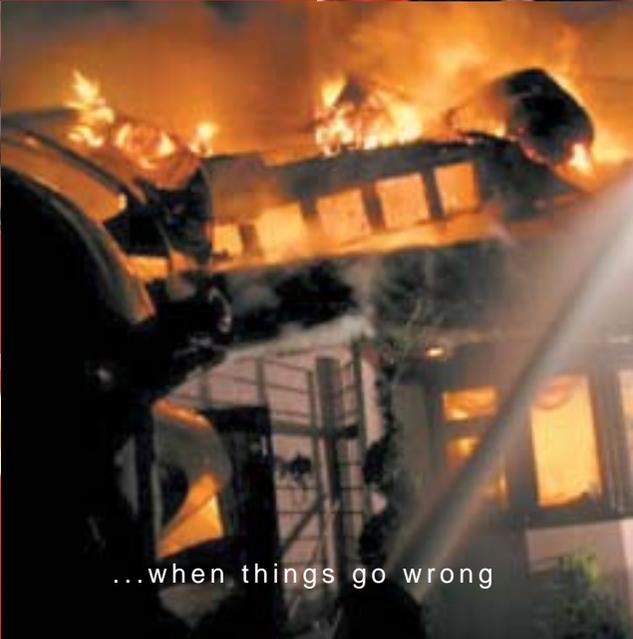
visits to the station can influence growing minds... to be fire safety conscious



looking to the future... for a safer Essex



open days and fun days educate young people... to think safe and live safe



...when things go wrong

when things go wrong...  
we can help make it right

Inevitably, sometimes things go wrong. Maybe a cry for attention, possibly the pressure from their peers. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service comes into contact with many young offenders caught in the spiral of crime. Other young people are simply misunderstood, having difficulty with lessons, playing truant or demonstrating difficulty in communicating.

Our pioneering Firebreak Scheme is showing young people a different way of life. Courses are currently being delivered in some parts of Essex and due to the success of the programme, we are looking to expand it county wide.

The programme, based on fire service activities and drills, teaches young people aged 13 to 17, self confidence, discipline and respect for themselves and others. It also helps them acquire communication and leadership skills, as well as greater community awareness.

Participation in Firebreak can lead to inclusion in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, an opportunity to continue their development through teenage life.

Testimonials we receive from parents, teachers and youth workers are our greatest reference. We are working with a range of agencies to help put young lives back on track and in doing so, adding to the safety of our communities.



working with  
young people...  
to stop hoax 999  
calls and to  
save lives

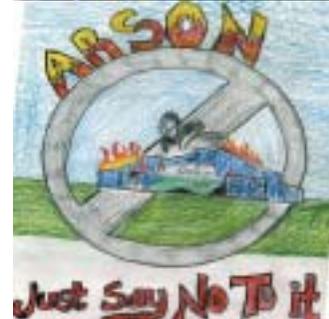
making less  
fortunate young  
people feel  
worthwhile...  
and offering them  
a future



initiatives help to  
get young offenders  
to understand...  
and change  
their lives



listening to local  
communities...  
working with them  
for a safer tomorrow



helping young  
offenders...  
to realise the effect  
on lives of arson  
and fire starting



...and so to work

out in the workplace

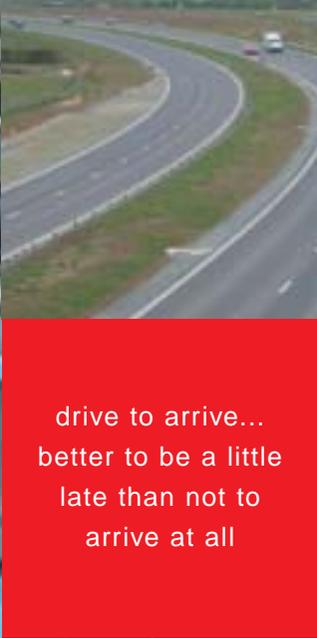
Our work obviously extends outside the home, and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Team has a visible role to play within the workplace.

New laws coming into force mean that the way Essex County Fire and Rescue Service does business with its commercial partners will change dramatically.

The Fire Safety Order (FSO) 2005 becomes law in the autumn of 2006, replacing 118 pieces of legislation, repealing the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and revoking The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations.

At a stroke, all fire certificates and plans cease to be valid and the highly prescriptive standards set by the Fire Service will be replaced by a system of risk-based assessment.

Businesses will be taking on new responsibilities in relation to the protection of their property and their workforce and we will be working with the business community to ensure the transition is smooth. Among your new responsibilities will be a requirement to conduct your own fire risk assessments and create a plan.



Essex County Fire and Rescue... protecting lives and educating people to think safety

drive to arrive... better to be a little late than not to arrive at all

working with business... to keep the workforce safe and to protect property

we see too many unnecessary cycle accidents... always think bike on the road

delivering change... through partnerships with industry

...the golden years

# staying safe in retirement

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service pays a great deal of attention to protecting the most vulnerable in its communities, including the sick and the elderly.

For example, did you know that everyone is entitled to a free home fire safety visit?

Uniformed officers will visit your home to provide information and answer questions to help you protect your home and, in many cases, will fit a smoke alarm free of charge.

All of our officers carry identification and are trained to deal with householders with courtesy and diplomacy.

Elderly people struggling to make ends meet can create danger in the home without realising it – lighting candles to cut down on electricity bills, dozing off in front of an open fire or hanging washing to dry close to naked flames.

Faulty electric blankets or smoking in bed can have fatal consequences. At every opportunity, try to make elderly members of your family fire aware.



protect against the invisible killer...  
fit a carbon monoxide sensor near gas appliances and internal flues

have your smoke alarm checked regularly...  
it could save your life



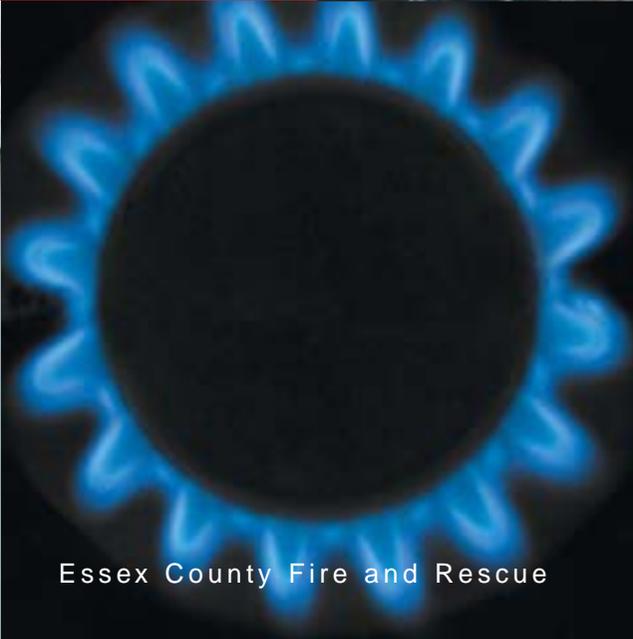
old or damaged electric blankets cause over 5,000 fires a year, make sure your blanket is safe...  
Essex Trading Standards will test your blanket free of charge



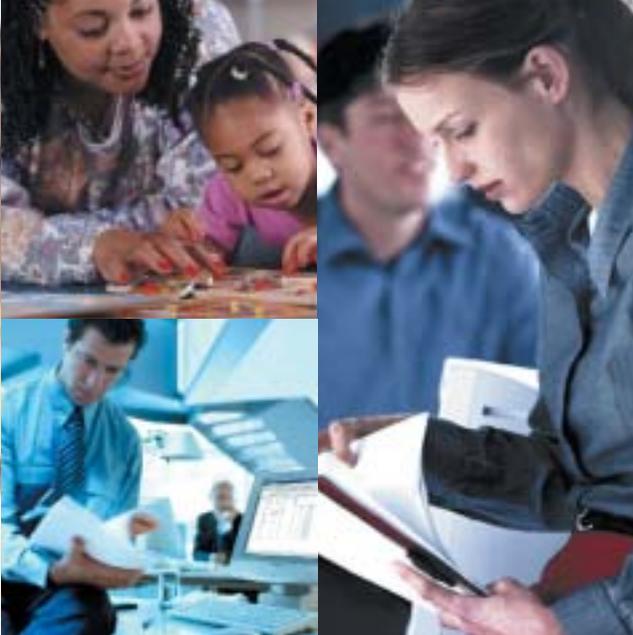
have annual checks and services carried out on all your gas appliances...  
by a qualified Corgi engineer



unattended open fires can be dangerous...  
never leave a fire to burn away on its own







with you for life

