

Sensory Support Service **Smoke alarms information**

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service can complete a free home fire safety visit and they do provide standard smoke alarms, but only for people that meet their criteria. You can find out more about this service by visiting <https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/free-home-fire-safety-visit>, phoning 01743 260 200, or e-mailing enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

Residents of Shropshire who are hard of hearing, d/Deaf with speech and d/Deaf without speech may not be alerted to standard smoke alarms and may therefore be at a significant disadvantage and risk in their homes. As their local sensory team, we offer assessment and advice regarding fire safety and in some circumstances, we are able to issue specialist equipment.

- If you are worried that you may not be alerted to your smoke alarms during the daytime, please ask a friend or family member to test them whilst you are inside your property
- If you are worried that you may not be alerted to your smoke alarms during the night-time when not wearing your hearing aid(s), please complete the simple test below:
 - *go to your bedroom and take out your hearing aid(s)*
 - *cover your ears with a pillow or duvet*
 - *have someone test your smoke alarms (if you have alarms upstairs and downstairs test them all)*

Criteria – You may be eligible for specialist equipment if you have completed the above test and you are **not** alerted to your existing smoke alarms **and**

- you live alone **OR**
- you live with someone who is also hearing impaired and not alerted to your existing smoke alarms either **OR**
- you live with someone who is physically unable to alert you to the smoke alarm, for example they have poor mobility or are bedbound **OR**
- you live with someone who is out of the property during the night-time on a regular basis, for example they work night shifts

If you meet the criteria as above and own your property or rent it from a private landlord:

- We will issue the specialist strobe vibrating equipment on a 'permanent loan' basis, free of charge
- We are not responsible for the installation of the equipment. You can choose to install it yourself or pay Shropshire Handy Person Service to do it for you. The cost of this can be discussed with them directly
- The equipment remains our property and therefore, if you no longer require the equipment, you move to a property that is housing association rented or you no longer pay your council tax to Shropshire Council, the system **must** be returned
- If the equipment is faulty, you should not attempt to fix it yourself; please contact Sensory Support Service



If you meet the criteria as above and **rent your property through a housing association:**

- You should contact them directly to request a specialist strobe vibrating smoke alarm system
- If required, we can write to your landlord on your behalf
- It is the discretion of the landlord as to what make or model of system they supply, and to arrange installation and maintenance

If you require any further advice or information or would like to make a referral, please visit our website: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/sensory-support-service/> or contact us by:

Tel: 01743 250 529

E-mail: cs.sensoryimpairment@shropshire.gov.uk

