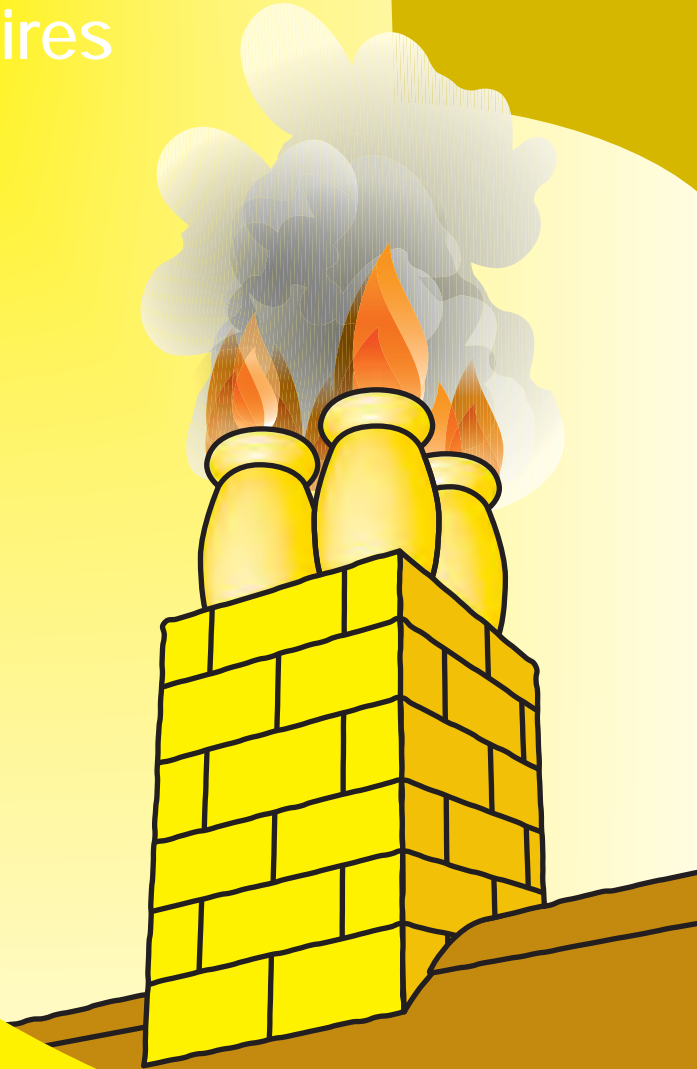


**LIVING  
SAFELY**

## Chimney Fires



**AVON**  
FIRE & RESCUE

**PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING**

## CHIMNEY FIRES

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.

### Chimneys using:

- Smokeless fuels should be swept at least once a year.
- Bituminous coal should be swept at least once a year.
- Wood, every 3 months when in use.
- Oil, once a year
- Gas, once a year.

Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.

### Fire prevention

- Don't use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.
- Don't burn paper or rubbish.
- Do not overload the fire with fuel.
- Go into the loft occasionally when the fire is alight to check for smoke from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints.

### If a chimney fire happens:

- Dial 999 and ask for the Fire Brigade.
- Alert other people in the house.
- Leave the room, closing the door behind you and wait for the Fire Brigade to arrive.

website: [www.avonfire.gov.uk](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk)

e-mail: [community.safety@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@avonfire.gov.uk)

**TEL: 0117 926 2061**  
**IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 999**

**AVON FIRE & RESCUE**  
**PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING**

