

## Home Safety Checks

Home Safety Checks (HSC) are a free service provided nationally by all fire and rescue services. Fire service personnel go to the homes of all those who request this free service and talk about fire safety with the occupants. This may involve discussions about an escape route in the event of an emergency for example. The fire service may also install free smoke alarms.

To request your free HSC in the West Midlands you can ring our contact centre, for free, on 0800 389 5525 or apply online at [www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net).

HSCs are a proactive prevention measure. Fire services are trying to reduce the number of fires and injuries in dwellings by both educating the West Midlands population and increasing smoke alarm ownership.

In 2008/2009 45,993 HSCs were completed by West Midlands Fire Service. In 2009/2010, 41,119 HSCs were completed and in 2010/2011 40,908 HSCs were completed.

In order to make the best use of our resources we must focus our HSCs on individuals most vulnerable from fire. Essential to reducing further the number of fire deaths and injuries across the Brigade, we work in partnership with other agencies who engage with vulnerable individuals to develop sustainable HSC referral schemes. To further support our target we use historical fire data linked to demographical profiles to identifying households within the West Midlands that are particularly vulnerable to fire.