

Most fires occur in homes and almost all are preventable.

With the minimum of effort, we can protect thousands of people in Europe. Because fire safety is a co-production, we aim at cooperation. Join our network!



**Join our network and
make Europe more Fire Safe**
europeanfiresafetyalliance.org

Given today's fire safety threats, a rise in the vulnerable community is observed, mainly as a result of the aging population in Europe. The proportion of people over 65 in the EU has increased from 18.3% in 2013 to 21.3% in 2023, and this trend is expected to continue in the future. Elderly individuals living at home are overrepresented in fire-related casualty statistics. The main reasons for this are unsafe fire-related behaviour and limitations in escaping during a fire.

Fire-safe behaviour in save buildings

One major factor contributing to the fire safety risk for vulnerable individuals is that construction, fire safety measures, housing policies, and regulations do not adequately account for the fact that a significant portion of the population is no longer self-reliant in the event of a fire. Another contributing factor is the lack of targeted efforts by community fire safety professionals to influence fire-safe behaviour in vulnerable populations. Additionally, vulnerable people are more likely to become fire victims because fires often occur in upholstered furniture or mattresses. Therefore, it is important to make further efforts to enhance the fire safety of these products and to include this aspect in the fire safety measures for vulnerable people.

Increasing escape time

Because most fire fatalities occur in the home, smoke alarms are one of the most (cost) effective measures to improve fire safety. Although the percentage of smoke alarms in European homes is still relatively low, efforts to increase this is a priority.

Awareness of fire risks

Awareness of fire risks is still limited among European citizens, and needs to be improved for both young and old. After all, almost every fire is the result of human actions. This can be achieved through a combination of better education, more effective targeted awareness campaigns to try to influence behaviour and the use of technology and fire safety equipment.

Fire safety is a part of Energy Transition

The implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive which impacts on energy transition is in full swing in Europe and we are increasingly seeing its effects on fire safety. Fires involving: solar panels, insulated homes, and batteries of cars, bicycles, hoverboards, etc. parked in and under residential buildings are increasing sharply. Sustainable and circular construction is complementary to or in line with the energy transition. This can seriously impede safe escape.

Reliable fire data is the basis

In order to achieve results on the topics of vulnerable people, energy transition and awareness, it is important that reliable fire data is available and that there is good European cooperation in these areas. In the coming years, further strong support will be needed for the process of harmonising the collection of fire statistics in Europe.

EU-wide communication and collaboration is essential in order to share - and connect - successful fire safety initiatives and best practices with each other and to realise a broad application of innovations. It is still insufficient at the moment.

European Fire Safety Action Plan

The agenda to reduce fire fatalities and injuries in European homes



**EUROPEAN
FIRE SAFETY
ALLIANCE**

2024-2026

1 - Increase the Fire safety of the vulnerable community

2 - Raise the awareness of Fire Safety

3 - Make fire safety a part of the energy transition

4 - Realize EU-wide data on residential fires

5 - Improve EU-wide cooperation and collaboration on fire safety

Actions that will improve European Fire Safety



Increase the Fire safety of the vulnerable community

Increase the fire safety of the growing vulnerable community by establishing a European approach to improving the fire safety of the most vulnerable groups, with special attention on escaping and surviving a fire.

Actions

1. Establish a European approach of improving the fire safety of the vulnerable community and the most vulnerable groups – elderly people (65+), children and people with a mental or physical disability (and focus on those living independently, especially in poverty and substandard housing).
2. Improve and increase the use of fire-safe upholstered furniture and mattresses through the introduction of an EU-standard for end-use products.
3. Ensure that smoke alarms have a much broader application in European homes. If people are not able to escape quickly enough or cannot escape at all, installing an automatic domestic extinguishing system seems to be an inevitable solution.
4. Evaluate and improve the functioning of Lower Ignition Propensity (LIP) cigarettes.

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Raise the awareness of Fire Safety

Raise the awareness of fire safety for European citizens, through better education, more targeted campaigns to influence fire behavior and the use of technology.

Actions

5. Encourage and support the activities of the Fire Rescue Services regarding Community Fire Safety projects, both at a national and international level, and change the mentality from 'nice to have' to 'need to have'.
6. Develop better fire safety education and awareness programmes to influence fire behaviour targeted at the most vulnerable groups in Europe.

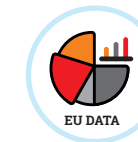


Make fire safety a part of the energy transition

Fire safety must be an inseparable part of the energy transition, including electrification and sustainable and circular building construction

Actions

7. Develop knowledge and competency, and increase awareness to ensure fire safety adequately accompanies the energy transition. Highlight the fire risks associated with the new forms of energy, increase awareness of these risks and ensure regular inspections. Take into account that electrification as well as sustainable and circular construction are important aspects of fire safe energy transition.



Realize EU-wide data on residential fires

Initiate and support efforts to improve the availability of harmonized European fire data, with a special focus on residential building

Actions

8. Realize the harmonisation of European fire statistics and their integration within Eurostat.



Improve EU-wide cooperation and collaboration on fire safety

Provide an international network and platform for running fire safety initiatives and projects.

Actions

9. Strengthen the EU Fire Information Exchange Platform as a tool for national authorities, EU institutions and other relevant stakeholders to exchange knowledge and experiences, with particular emphasis on fire safety of vulnerable citizens.
10. Stimulate (or foster) scientific research on fire safety aimed at mitigating fire risks especially arising from EU policies related to energy transition and sustainable innovations, but also on fire-safe behaviour of people and the effectiveness of interventions in the field of Community Fire Safety.
11. Encourage better cooperation between the Member States and industry on market surveillance and fire safety promotion.
12. Create a central repository of worthwhile community fire safety initiatives in member states and /or develop a Knowledge Platform to share information or best practices on fire safety. Ensure materials produced are accessible in multiple languages.

