



North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Update

Emollient creams are widely used to treat skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and many other skin conditions.

While these products are essential for managing chronic skin conditions it is important to manage the fire risk associated particularly when absorbed into fabrics like clothing, bedding and bandages.



What's the risk?

Emollients themselves are not directly flammable, if you put a match to a sample of emollient skin product it would not ignite. They can significantly increase the flammability of fabrics when absorbed into materials such as clothing, bedding, or bandages. It's important that fabrics with emollient residue are not exposed to a naked flames or heat sources.



Why should I be concerned?

With regular use over time, emollients can soak into fabrics and dry within them. If these contaminated materials come into contact with an ignition source, such as:

- A dropped cigarette, match, or lighter
- Sitting too close to a gas, halogen, or open fire
- Clothing catching on a hob while cooking

...it can result in a fire that develops quickly, burns intensely, and spreads rapidly posing a serious risk of injury or death. People who **smoke** or have **reduced mobility** are especially vulnerable.



Our Ask: Help Spread Awareness

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has launched a new campaign: 'Know the Fire Risk', aimed at raising awareness of the fire hazards linked to emollient creams.

Please share this important information with your teams and networks, raising awareness could help prevent serious injuries and save lives.

A video resource has been developed to support domiciliary care providers, support workers, health professionals, and informal carers. It offers practical advice and promotes partnership working to help reduce fire risks and keep people safe at home.

 Please note: The video contains real-life imagery and discussions related to fire injuries and fatalities involving emollient creams, which some viewers may find distressing.

Key Actions for Carers and Professionals

Complete a person-centred risk assessment using the NFCC [Fire risk checklist for domiciliary care providers – NFCC](#)

Use the [Online Home Fire Safety Check](#) tool, which includes a shortcut referral option for carers to connect with fire and rescue services.

Access **information and leaflets** produced as part of the [Know the Fire Risk](#) campaign to support your work and raise awareness.

Further information can be found at the below links.

[Know the Fire Risk - NFCC](#)

[Safe use of emollient skin creams to treat dry skin conditions - GOV.UK](#)

 North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service provide training throughout the year about fire prevention and how to refer individuals for Home Fire Safety visits. We can also deliver a more in-depth session on the safe use of emollient creams. For further details or to arrange training, please contact prevention@northyorksfire.gov.uk

You can also visit our website www.northyorksfire.gov.uk to explore why working in partnership with other professionals is vital to keeping our communities safe.