

“A smoke alarm may have saved a life”

Maisie

Maisie was 76 years old and lived alone in her first floor flat which she rarely left due to mobility difficulties and being partially sighted. Due to her difficulty with moving around, Maisie spent most of her time in the living room and usually slept on her sofa.

In April 2012, a fire started which was caused by either a lit cigarette or match accidentally falling on to Maisie's sofa which she was asleep on at the time. The sofa was quite old and pre-dated fire safety regulations relating to furniture which meant it wasn't fire retardant. Maisie also didn't have a smoke alarm in her flat and so was unaware of the fire until it had to grown too large for her to escape from.

London Fire Brigade visit people in their homes to provide advice on how to reduce the risk of fire and will supply smoke alarms free of charge to those most at risk. Had a smoke alarm been in place, it's likely that Maisie would have been alerted to the fire in it's very early stages giving her vital time to escape.