

EMOLLIENT PRODUCTS AND FIRE SAFETY

SAFE AND WELL



**GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service visits households across Greater Manchester to provide advice on fire safety and to keep you safe and well at home.

If you haven't already had your Safe and Well visit and want further information, please telephone 0800 555 815 or send an email to contact@manchesterfire.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can visit our website at: manchesterfire.gov.uk

Emollient products such as creams, sprays, liquids or gels are safe to use and they are vital for the skin conditions that they treat.

When emollient products get onto bedding, clothing, bandages or other fabrics, the dried residue will make the fabric more flammable. If a heat or ignition source, such as a cigarette, comes into contact with the fabric it will catch fire more easily and the fire will burn faster and hotter. **This risk exists in emollients that contain paraffin and in those that don't.**

If there is any risk that your clothes, bedding, bandages or other fabrics are contaminated with emollient residue, follow the fire safety advice below:

- Don't smoke. If you do smoke, and you want to quit, the best way to do so is a combination of medication and support. This is available through the NHS. Visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree for more information.
- Keep away from anyone else that is smoking.
- Don't go near to naked flames, smoking materials, cookers, heaters and other ignition sources.
- Wash your clothes, bedding and fabrics at the highest temperature recommended on the fabric care label. This will reduce the emollient residue but be aware that it may not totally remove it. Therefore, remain cautious and stay away from fire.



Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test your alarms weekly. A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999. If you are caring for someone who doesn't understand what the smoke alarm is for, or wouldn't be able to respond in the event of a fire, make sure that you arrange a Safe and Well visit, with their permission, to look at solutions.