



**North Wales Fire and
Rescue Service**

PUSH THE BUTTON!

*Remember to test your
smoke alarm once a week*



Putting People First

Chimney Safety

Autumn is fast approaching - so now is the time to be safety conscious before lighting your fire for the first time.

Most chimney fires are preventable so it is important to keep yourself and your family safe by doing everything possible to reduce the risk of a fire.

The most common causes of chimney fires are inadequately sized or poorly installed appliances, blocked chimneys and using wet wood in burners.

There are a number of precautionary measures you can take to ensure you and your household are as safe as possible when lighting fires at home.

Get your chimney swept

A good place to start is to have your chimney swept by a certified member of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps. Infrequent sweeping of chimneys can increase the risk of chimney fires, and can even cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

All chimneys should be swept regularly, and now is the perfect time before the colder winter months set in and you begin to use your fire more regularly.

It costs less than £100 to have your chimney swept so I would urge everyone to arrange this before they light their first fire this autumn.

Regular maintenance of your chimney will depend on the fuel you burn – if you burn oil or gas, your chimney should be swept once a year; bituminous coal, twice a year; wood up to four times a year; and smokeless coals at least once a year. Also, do not burn wet wood.

When considering a coal or log burner for the home, it is important that you take into account the size of the appliance. An appliance which is too large will never become hot enough to effectively burn all of the fuel within the wood, and unburned fuel will pass up the chimney as smoke, condensing within the flue as extremely flammable creosote.

Protect your property

Finally, always make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed and use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.