

Key Policies in Wales

*“No one in Wales should
be put at risk of electrical
faults in their home”*



Electrical Safety First - Who we are

Electrical Safety First is a UK campaigning consumer charity dedicated to preventing deaths, injuries and damage caused by electricity.

- We work with the Welsh Government, tenants, landlords and homeowners to reduce electrically-related deaths and accidents in the home.
- We campaign on behalf of consumers to improve safety and ensure electrical safety messages are appropriate, up-to-date and well communicated.
- We provide expert information and advice to help people protect themselves from faulty, damaged, substandard and poorly maintained electrical installations and electrical appliances.
- We are recognised by government and industry as the leading campaigning and technical authority on electrical safety.
- Electrical Safety First believes that no one, regardless of age, income or where they live in Wales, should be put at risk of electrical faults in their home. To this end we have been campaigning to improve electrical safety in a number of key areas.

1. Preventing Electrical Fires in Welsh Homes

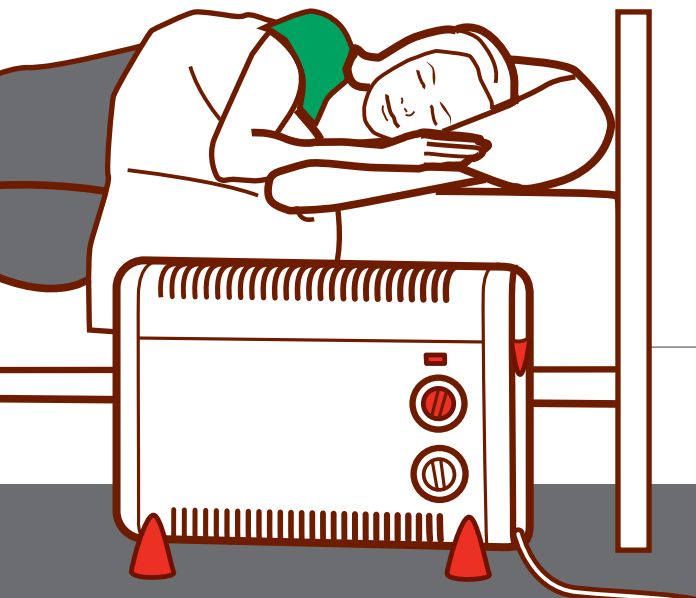
Electricity can and does kill.

Electricity causes more than half of house fires in Wales per year and 42% of accidental house fires caused by a faulty fuel supply in Welsh homes were ignited by electricity¹. Fires in Wales are falling. However, electrical sources of fire have consistently been the main cause of accidental dwelling fires since 2001/2 in Wales.

We want to see:

1. **A commitment to reduce the number of accidental electrical house fires by 10% over the next five years in Wales.**
2. **Improved reporting of accidental electrical house fires in Wales – to better inform safety strategies to protect the Welsh public.**
3. **A strategy to combat the distribution and sale of counterfeit electrical goods in Wales.**

Electricity causes more than half of house fires in Wales



2. Protecting Tenants in Wales

Electrical Safety First has been campaigning to ensure that people who live in the private rented sector in Wales receive a 5-yearly electrical safety check. In Wales, a third of the population rents their home².

The Welsh Government has committed to introduce regulations through the Renting Homes (Wales) Act but we wish to ensure that these regulations are brought into effect as soon as possible following the Welsh Elections.

We want to see:

1. **Regulations introduced for 5-yearly electrical safety checks in the private rented sector in Wales.**
2. **Consideration by the Welsh Government to extend electrical safety checks to the social rented sector.**

We want the Welsh Government to extend electrical safety checks to the social rented sector

We want to see 5-yearly electrical safety checks in the private rented sector in Wales

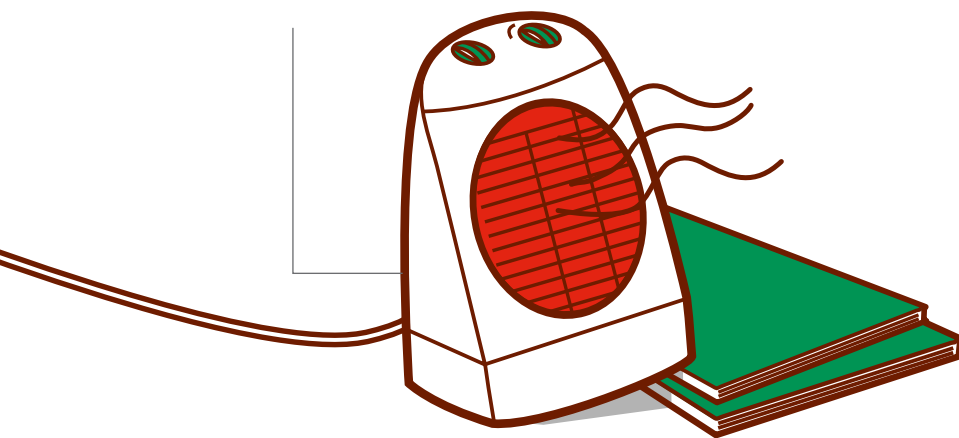


3. Electrical Safety for Older People

In mid-2014, the percentage of the population living in Wales aged 65 and over living in Wales was 19.9 per cent, this is an upward trend³. An ageing population in Wales poses new challenges, particularly on the affordability of energy and health concerns such as dementia or similar degenerative syndromes that affect older people's ability to stay safe in their own homes.

Older people can often be at risk because they live in owner occupied properties that have never had an electrical safety check or they use older electrical appliances. Older people can often be reliant on electrical sources of heating in the home, particularly during the winter. People aged 80 and over make up nearly 40% of fatalities from portable heater fires⁴.

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We want to see:

1. **A government strategy to reduce electrical fires amongst older people in Wales.**
2. **Care visits to older people to include basic visual checks on electrical installations and appliances.**
3. **All care homes to receive regular electrical safety checks.**



¹ <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2016/160727-fire-statistics-2015-16-en.pdf>

² <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s39537/22%20April%202015.html?CT=2>

³ <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/mid-year-estimates-population/?lang=en>

⁴ <http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/mediafile/100304187/A-Shock-to-the-System.pdf>

Electrical Safety First
The UK's electrical safety experts

Electrical Safety First is the UK charity dedicated to reducing deaths and injuries caused by electrical accidents. Our aim is to ensure everyone in the UK can use electricity safely.

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