

Hairdryer fire sparks warning

By Ben James
Assistant news editor
ben.james@theargus.co.uk

A WARNING has been issued after a family nearly lost everything when their hairdryer set on fire.

Crews were called to a home in Sycamore Way, Hassocks, just before 4pm on Friday.

By the time they arrived the semi-detached home was in danger of going up in flames.

Crews from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Partridge Green, Crawley and Steyning tackled the blaze and battled to save the home.

The fire caused substantial damage to the first floor and smoke damage to the ground floor but firefighters managed stop it spreading.

Investigators were sent in to establish the cause and found it had been started by a hairdryer under a pile of clothing in a bedroom.

Cameron McKechnie, who lives in the home with his family, said: "It's such a shame that a simple thing can cause such devastation,

quote

"THIS devastating fire has had a terrible impact on the family.

"It is lucky that nobody was hurt and that the prompt and professional actions of our crews stopped the fire spreading further.

"It is very easy for us all to forget that household appliances, like hairdryers and straighteners, can cause such horrific damage if not used carefully.

"We would urge everyone to make sure appliances like these are switched off and unplugged when not in use and to make sure they are familiar with the manufacturers' instructions."

Gavin Watts, West Sussex Fire and Rescue deputy chief fire officer

I would like people to learn from this terrible disaster from us and make sure they unplug all their electrical appliances that are not designed to be left on."

Firefighters are warning about the dangers of hairdryers after a similar blaze in a Worthing rest home just before Christmas.

Gavin Watts, West Sussex Fire and Rescue deputy chief fire officer, said: "This devastating fire has had a terrible impact on the family.

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"It is very easy for us all to forget that household appliances, like hairdryers and straighteners, can cause such horrific damage if not used carefully.

"We would urge everyone to make sure appliances like these are switched off and unplugged when not in use and to make sure they are familiar with the manufacturers' instructions."

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is also urging anyone who discovers a fire to get out of their home as soon as possible – and stay out.

It comes after one of the teenagers at the Sycamore Way fire told how he was surprised how quickly the flames had spread when he tried to go back in to retrieve some items.

For more details visit westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime.



The remains of the burnt-out hairdryer



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