

LIFEBID Research Project

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HOW YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP:

UK fire and rescue services aim to protect lives and property. To help them do this, they are asking occupants in their locality like yourself to describe any direct experiences of fires in the home. It may be that you have experienced a fire which affected your property and assistance from the fire and rescue service was required. Alternatively, you may have experienced some smoke or flames in your property but were able to deal with it yourself. Either way, your experiences could be invaluable to helping fire and rescue services better understand what happens during a fire and how occupants respond to the unfolding situation. In turn, they and other fire safety professionals can use this knowledge to help reduce the number of fires in homes as well as any injuries that occur during such fires. This knowledge can also help the public keep themselves safe.

THE SURVEY:

You are being invited to take part in a dwelling fire survey. This may take around 30 minutes of your time. The questions will ask you to describe the chain of events you experienced (e.g. what alerted you to the fact there was smoke/flames, your actions in response to this, and so on). As everyone's circumstances are different, you will also be asked a few questions about yourself and your home (e.g. age, gender, type of property).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH YOUR DATA:

If you do the electronic version of the survey your responses will be automatically saved upon completion and then coded into a secure database. Hard copy survey responses will also be coded into this secure database. The coded data will then be analysed by researchers led by the University of Greenwich's Fire Safety Engineering Group. Professionals from other organisations involved in public safety may apply to access and analyse the data. Please be assured, no names or contact details will be stored in the database; participants will be assigned an ID code so survey responses will be anonymous. In order to ensure relevant organisations (e.g. in the fire sector, medical sector, accident prevention charities, etc.) benefit from the wealth of experiences collected, data from the project will be presented in internal reports, scientific journals, at conferences and so on. Anonymity will be upheld whenever data is presented in these forums. All data collected will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and centres' own ethics requirements.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Participation in the survey is voluntary. You may have heard about this research through firefighters attending your fire or offering home safety visits, or through other organisations

which provide you with safety/security-related services. You do not need to take part in this survey in order to continue receiving services from other parties. Nor do you need to accept services from other parties in order to take part in this survey. Moreover, your data is being collected for research purposes only and so will not be passed onto third parties to be used for other means (e.g. marketing, insurance or police investigations). Please note, if you decide to take part in the survey, you are still free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. In such a case, please go to the project website, lifebid.co.uk, and contact us using the online form. Once we have received your message, your saved data will be deleted. In all cases, should you provide us at any point with names or contact details, these will be deleted within three years of the end of the project.

You may feel your experience with a fire/flames/smoke was minor or limited. That is okay; please do still attempt the survey. All scenarios can provide information of immense value. For those of you who feel your experience was a serious or traumatic one, please take a moment to consider whether you would be okay answering questions about this experience. Some people may find the subject matter of this survey sensitive or upsetting. However, if it is something you do not feel comfortable revisiting at present, you can always come back to it later – see the project website for dates of data collection.

TECHNICAL POINTS:

The electronic survey includes some visual aids, including an interactive timeline accompanied by a short instruction video. The following internet browsers should support these features: Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer (*only version 9 onwards), Opera, Safari.



However, due to individual differences in how operating systems, browsers and media players are configured, some technical problems could nevertheless be encountered. Please contact us via the project website if this is the case.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or comments about anything to do with this research, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can contact us via the project website, lifebid.co.uk, using the online form. If you would like to discuss something with a researcher via telephone, please include your number in the message.

Thank you for your time, interest and assistance in this project. It is greatly appreciated.