

JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2014

# The Flame

## Firefighters rescue family from a house fire

Yesterday tea time firefighters were called to a house in Clackton Crescent to rescue the family trapped in the upstairs bedroom.

The alarm was raised by neighbours who initially smelled the smoke and went out to investigate.

Mr Jones, the neighbour who called 999 explained what happened. "My wife and I smelled smoke and went out to investigate, we saw smoke and flames coming from the downstairs windows. Suddenly we heard shouting and saw the family appear at the upstairs window. While my wife tried to keep them calm I called 999".

The firefighters arrived quickly and rescued the family and extinguished the fire.

## Hospital

The family of four were taken to hospital by ambulance suffering from smoke inhalation but were released later than evening.

Trudy Trueman says she is shocked by what happened and wants to thank her neighbours and the firefighters for rescuing her and her family.

"I was cooking tea when I heard the kids shouting upstairs so I ran up to see what was going on, as I didn't want the older two to wake the baby. When I went to go back downstairs the hallway was filled with black smoke and I couldn't get down. I grabbed the baby and shouted to the older ones to get in the front bedroom with me.



*The fire started when the cooking was left unattended. Most fires in the home start in the kitchen.*

## Choking smoke

We shut the door and grabbed a duvet to put at the bottom of the door to stop the smoke, opened the window and yelled for help. Fortunately our neighbours had come outside and phone for help and soon the firefighters were rescuing us"

## Test it Tuesday

Watch Manager Steve James says the family was lucky to escape being injured in the fire. He advises everyone to have a working smoke alarm. "A smoke alarm would have given plenty of warning of the fire, giving time to get out before the fire and smoke spread and blocked the way out. We advise everyone to have working smoke alarms and test them weekly".

## Escape

WM James continues "Knowing what to do when the smoke alarm sounds is important, we advise you to get out, stay out and call 999. Do not go back inside for any reason until the firefighters say it is safe. Have your escape routes planned and keep the ways out clear of trip hazards. We also advise that keys are kept near doors and windows.

The family did the right thing in getting to a room from which they could call for help and putting the duvet by the door, but they would have been safer with a working smoke alarm to give more warning."

## What can you remember from The Flame?

- 1) Why did Trudy Trueman go upstairs?
- 2) How did the fire start?
- 3) How did the family realise there was a fire?
- 4) Who called for help?
- 5) What would have given the family earlier warning of a fire?
- 6) How often should you test your smoke alarm?
- 7) What did the family do when they were trapped in the room?
- 8) What should you think about when planning your escape routes?
- 9) What advice would you give to make sure people are fire safe?



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