



Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**

Making Derbyshire Safer Together

1 DECEMBER 2020

ACCIDENTAL HOUSE FIRE CAUSED BY PORTABLE GAS HEATER

A fire investigation into the cause of an accidental house fire has determined that the most likely cause of the fire was a portable gas heater.

Firefighters from Chesterfield, Staveley and Clay Cross attended the fire at a terraced house on Calow Lane, Hasland in Chesterfield at 20:02 hours on Saturday 28 November.

On arrival at the scene Firefighters were met by a well-developed fire in the ground floor front room of the property. Two adjoining homes were evacuated to ensure the safety of the occupants while Firefighters worked to extinguish the fire and ensure the gas cylinder present in the fire presented no further risk. The occupant of the affected property had evacuated before the arrival of fire crews.

Speaking following a fire investigation into the cause of the fire, Group Manager Steve Wells, who was the Officer in Charge at the incident said: "This devastating fire shows just how easily accidents can happen leading to a fire that soon gets out of control.

"Unfortunately the occupant of the house was trying out a portable gas heater that he had bought for his caravan when it seemed to explode on lighting. Thankfully no one suffered any injuries as a result of the incident, but it could have been a very different story.

"As the weather is getting colder and more people will be using portable heating systems to keep warm, I'd urge people to ensure they're used safely and correctly. It's important to keep portable heating systems away from walls and hanging laundry, and to ensure valves on gas heaters are well maintained and electric heaters have the correct fuse rating."

email: enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk
www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

Gavin Tomlinson MBA MIFireE
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



For more information about keeping safe visit www.derbys-fire.gov.uk alternatively you can keep up to date with safety advice and information by following/liking @DerbyshireFRS on Facebook and Twitter.

ENDS

Note to Reporters/Editors

The JPEG images for the three images taken from the incident are attached to the email.

For more information please contact Gina Staley on gstaley@derbys-fire.gov.uk or by calling 01773 305408.

