



## **FIREFIGHTERS KEEPING YOU SAFE IN BED WITH FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING**

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is urging residents to take up a free electric blanket test to help ensure their safety in bed this winter.

The free tests, which are now offered annually will be available at selected venues across the county.

**Jackie Boyle**, Community Fire and Road Safety Officer, said: "Last year 232 of the 645 blankets we tested had a fault, which is more than a third. Such a high proportion really highlights the value of getting them checked regularly."

"Every year, there are around 1000 fires caused by unsafe electric blankets and sadly, many people are seriously injured and some even killed. The elderly can be especially vulnerable, so we would urge local residents to take up this offer of a free test."

Tests are taking place between 9.30am-1pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm at:

**Lavinia House Dukes Square, Denne Rd, Horsham – Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Tamarisk Centre, 42 Beach Rd, Littlehampton – Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Adur District Council Office, 101 North Rd, Lancing – Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Martlets Hall, Civic Way, Burgess Hill – Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Midhurst Fire Station, New Rd, Midhurst – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Booking is by appointment only from August 26, please call **01243 642124**. All venues have disabled access.

"People really can't afford to be complacent where electrical safety is concerned, so please don't take a chance. Get your blanket tested for free this winter," added Jackie.

As well as getting your blanket checked regularly. There are some simple recommended guidelines for the safe use of electric blankets: -

Never buy a second hand electric blanket, always buy new

Ensure you check for creases, fold or scorch marks

Never use a hot water bottle at the same time

Do not touch the blanket with wet hands or feet, or use it if it's wet or damp

Store your blanket in the original box and don't place anything heavy on top of it

Always follow the manufacturers instructions.

Home fire safety advice is free and easy to access from West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, please contact the community safety team on 01243 642878 or visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire)