

Fire incidents and fire-related near-misses in people living with dementia: a survey.

Participant Information Sheet

Project Description

We are researchers at the University of Greenwich who are interested in fire risk and fire safety for people living with dementia. Over time, people living with dementia can become more susceptible to fire risk. This may be due to changes in memory and attention that lead to cooking accidents and misuse of appliances. Dementia can also impact a person's ability to recognise and respond to fire effectively.

Information and data about fire incidents involving people living with dementia is limited. Existing research has only recorded fire incidents where the person with dementia had to go to hospital. We do not know about other types of fire incidents such as when no one is injured, or when a fire is put out by family or a neighbour, for example. Neither do we know about "near-misses" i.e. when a fire hazard is noticed and addressed in time before a fire starts. An example of this could be an empty pan left on a cooker, which is removed before a fire starts.

In this project, we would like to learn more about fire incidents and fire-related near-misses involving people with dementia who live at home in the community (i.e. not in a nursing or care home). This will help us understand the circumstances around such incidents and think about ways to reduce fire risk in future.

We would like to hear from people who are:

- Family members, friends, or neighbours of a person living with dementia who has had a fire incident or fire-related near-miss at home
- Aged 18 and over and
- Living in the UK

If you do not meet these criteria, you will not be able to take part.

Nature of Participation

Participation is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether to take part in this study or not. You should only take part if you want to. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete an online survey about your experiences of any fire incidents or fire-related near-misses involving a person living with dementia.

You will be asked to complete the survey using the secure Qualtrics survey platform. To access this, you will need to have access to a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone with internet connection. Before you take part, you will have the opportunity to read this information sheet again. We want to be certain you are fully informed and that you wish to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to give your consent for your involvement in the study on Qualtrics, before starting the survey.

The survey will ask questions about things like:

- What the incident involved and where it happened
- Who was there when the incident occurred and who responded to it
- Whether anything changed after the incident

For most questions you will be asked to select one or more options. There will also be space to provide additional written information should you wish. Free text responses should not include any information that could identify you or another person e.g. names or contact information.

At the start of the survey, you will be asked how many fires or fire-related near-misses have occurred. If there has been more than one incident, you will have the option to answer all survey questions for each incident. You can choose whether you answer the questions for one, some, or all incidents. It should take around 10 to 15 minutes to answer all the questions for one incident.

Before completing the survey, you will be asked some questions about yourself including your:

- Age group
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Region in the UK you live (e.g. North West England, South East England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- Relationship to the person with dementia who had the incident

We are collecting this information so that we can describe the characteristics of the people who take part in the survey when we write our final report. We may also use this information to compare across different people's experiences. You can choose not to answer these questions if you prefer.

Consent and Withdrawal

Before you take part, we will ask you to give your consent for your involvement in the study. We will do this on the Qualtrics survey platform, just before the survey starts.

You have the right to withdraw from the study without having to give a reason. Before or during the survey, you can withdraw by closing the survey webpage. Your responses will not be recorded and any responses you have already entered will be erased. If you decide to withdraw after you have completed the survey, you can do this at any time up until 14/06/2027. After this point, we will start to analyse the data, and it will no longer be possible to withdraw.

To enable withdrawal, you will be asked to generate a unique, self-created code at the start of the survey. This should be made up of the last two letters of your first name and the day of your birthdate e.g. for John born on May 20th, the unique code would be HN20. You can withdraw your data by contacting a member of the research team using the contact details at the bottom of this sheet and providing your unique code. This will enable us to locate your data with remove it from the study.

Risks

We do not expect that you will face any risks by taking part in this research. It is possible that you may feel distressed by recounting any fire incidents or fire-related near-misses. If you become upset, you can choose to leave the survey by closing the webpage. Your answers will be not recorded. You can restart the survey should you wish by using the same link or QR code.

You can contact a dementia helpline:

- Dementia UK on 0800 888 6678. The helpline is open from 9am to 9am Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. It is open on bank holidays (9am to 5pm) apart from December 25th.
- Alzheimer's Society on 0333 150 3456. If you need or would prefer support in another language, you can call and say the English word for the language you would like to use. They will then arrange for an interpreter to call back. The helpline is open from 9am to 8pm Monday to Wednesday; 9am to 5pm Thursday and Friday; and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

You can also contact your local Fire and Rescue Service for advice about reducing fire risk.

The survey will not be monitored for crises or safeguarding concerns. If you need urgent support or are worried about your own or someone else's safety, please contact the appropriate emergency services or support organisation.

Benefits

By taking part in this study, you will help us understand the circumstances around fire incidents and fire-related near-misses involving people living with dementia. We will use this information to make recommendations about how to reduce the risk of such incidents in future.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

All personal data will be handled in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Data will be stored within the secure Qualtrics survey until data collection is complete. This will include your unique, self-generated code, information about your characteristics (e.g. age, gender), and your survey responses. We will not ask you for any information that could identify you (e.g. your name or email address).

If you provide written information in the survey, we ask that you do not include any information which may identify you and we will remind you of this throughout the survey. We will check the written responses and remove any identifiable information as soon as possible after they are submitted. We may quote what you have said in our final report, but it will not be possible to identify you.

Once we have finished collecting the survey responses, we will download the data onto a University of Greenwich OneDrive folder and delete it from Qualtrics. After we have analysed the data, we will delete your unique, self-generated code and store your anonymous data according to University of Greenwich's retention schedule for 10 years.

Anonymised data from this study may be uploaded to an online research repository to support transparency and future research. You will not be identifiable in any publications, presentations, or shared datasets arising from this research.

Ethical Approval

This project has been approved by the University of Greenwich University Research Ethics Board. Approval Reference: UREB2026_63, July 2026

What happens now?

You should spend at least 24 hours deciding if you want to take part or not. If you **do not** wish to take part, you do not have to do anything else. If you **do** want to take part, you can follow the link below which will take you to the Qualtrics page. There you can read this information sheet again, and if you decide to take part, you can give your informed consent and begin the survey.

If you decide to take part, you can access the survey in Qualtrics by:

- Clicking [here](#)
- Or typing the following address into your browser: <https://bit.ly/4fysqgi>
- Or scanning the QR code:



Project Contacts

If you have any questions or complaints about the research, you can contact either:

Dr Tiffeny James

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