

HOME SAFETY AND DRONES ON SHOW IN SEPTEMBER

UK emergency services will collaborate to help people live safely in their homes in a new show – Home Safety 2016 – to run alongside The Emergency Services Show on 21-22 September in Birmingham, while a new Drone Zone will also feature at the NEC.

Supported by the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) and the 'Fire Kills' campaign, Home Safety 2016 will comprise a free two-day seminar programme, which will be held in conjunction with this year's Emergency Services Show in September.

The two-day event will explore successful fire and health collaborations, plus a dedicated exhibition to showcase specialist equipment for the safe home.

Pete O'Reilly, CFOA lead for health, said: "Evidence and research shows people who are deemed to be more vulnerable have an increased risk of death and injury from fire. Statistics show there are more than half a million vulnerable people in the UK (aged over 90), two million unplanned hospital admissions a year for those aged over 65, while the Office for National Statistics estimates more than 18,000 excess winter deaths every year.

"The 'Working Together' document outlines the commitment of NHS England, social care, health providers and fire and rescue services to work together and reduce future demand. This year's show will give us the opportunity to share this work and its outcomes."

The seminar sessions will include case studies from fire and rescue services who have expanded their work into the health area by working alongside the NHS, as well as partnering other agencies such as Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society.

Taking place during Gas Safety Week (19-25 September), the Home Safety show will also cover various aspects of gas safety, showing how fire and rescue services can work with partners at a local level to ensure that being CO aware is core to the safe and well visit.

Last October a consensus statement, published by CFOA, NHS England, Public Health England, Local Government Association and Age UK, outlined ways in which they could work together to reduce preventable hospital admissions and avoidable winter pressures/deaths.

To register visit www.emergencyuk.com

SHOW LANDS THE NEW DRONE ZONE
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or more commonly referred to as drones will also be a new feature at this year's Emergency Services Show.

Event organisers have partnered with UAV professionals network, SUAS Global, to launch The Drone Zone; as well as showcasing suppliers of UAV technology, it will bring together industry specialists and end-users who will share their knowledge and experience.

Risk management, operational safety in both civil and commercial airspace, privacy, security and legislation will all be covered in the free seminar programme.

A recent Sky News report found that two thirds of fire services in the UK and half of police forces are now using – or plan to use – drones. Specialist ambulance crews, or Hazard Area Response Teams (HART), are also expected to be equipped with UAVs this year.

Among the speakers in Drone Zone seminar theatre will be James Grove, Watch Manager, West Midlands Fire Service which has been using drones since 2007. Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (which has joint use of a drone with Lancashire Police) will also share its experience.

Meanwhile the potential of UAVs for aiding situational awareness during fire incidents, missing person searches and flooding will be covered by Séamus Kearns, Head of Operations, Surrey Search & Rescue, and Lee Renwick, Director, HAIS Group who will talk about the application of UAVs in law enforcement and counter terrorism.

