

## Residential fires and elderly people - multidisciplinary success factors for reducing fatalities and severely injured

**Significant differences in the risk of death from fire have been shown to exist in regards to different age groups, socio-economic groups and geographical areas. One group that repeatedly is shown to be particularly at risk is older people, a group that also constitutes the age group that percentage-wise is increasing the most in society in regards to population size. Therefore, in order to reach the vision zero within fire, this group should be given special priority in the preventive work.**

### Purpose and Goal

*The purpose of this project was to investigate and analyze factors that were crucial in preventing domestic fires in which an older person was involved in leading to serious injury or death. The factors were analyzed from different societal levels and with an interdisciplinary perspective.*

### Methods and Implementation

*The project was divided into four different parts; the micro perspective, the meso perspective, the macro perspective and the future perspective. Methodologically, the perspectives differed and included interviews, literature reviews and epidemiological, quantitative methods.*

### Results

Through a number of studies at different societal levels, this project can establish that amongst the greatest obstacles in achieving the fire vision zero are the social processes that support an increased trend of older persons living alone. Although efficient rescue services as well as early efforts from, for example, home help services or neighbors are clearly life-saving, these types of measures do not seem to fully compensate for the risks of living alone. Nor, as of yet, is there available technology that can compensate the risks of living alone. From a wider social perspective, it is important to note that cohabitation is a protective factor for many other undesirable events besides fire. Hence, it is obvious that the increased fire mortality among older people living alone is rather a symptom of a larger social development that Swedish societal actors need to discuss and focus on.

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