# tumble dryer fire kills father and daughter in Heckmondwike home



A tragic incident unfolded in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, where a house fire claimed the lives of Sohaib Ahmed, 38, and his nine-year-old daughter, Manahal. The devastating blaze erupted on Sunday morning at a home on Russell Close, leading to a profound loss in the local community. While the fire left members of the Ahmed family shattered, an 11-year-old daughter remains in critical condition after sustaining serious injuries during the incident.

West Yorkshire Police have initiated an investigation into the cause of the fire. Councillor Darren O’Donovan, who represents Dewsbury West and chairs the fire authority, reported that initial findings indicate the blaze originated in the kitchen area, with a tumble dryer identified as the likely ignition source. He further noted that many such devices have been subject to recalls due to safety concerns, highlighting the potential risks associated with domestic appliances. "This was just a local family on a very regular street... a tragic accident has taken place," O’Donovan reflected, as the community came together to support the bereaved family.

In a further show of solidarity, Councillor Ali Arshad described the Ahmed family as “absolutely amazing people,” underscoring the shock experienced by those who knew them. The community response has been significant, with local residents rallying to provide support to the victims’ relatives, both locally and abroad. Detective Inspector Paul Greatorex of Kirklees CID confirmed that investigative efforts are ongoing and reassured the public by stating that there is no reason to suspect foul play. "Extensive enquiries have been ongoing since yesterday," he said, adding that a report would be prepared for the coroner.

This incident comes in the wake of other fire-related tragedies in the region. Just recently, a mother-of-three had recounted the harrowing experience of losing her home to a tumble dryer fire, although fortunately, her family escaped unharmed. The local fire service has been keen to raise awareness about the dangers associated with tumble dryers, advising residents on safety measures such as avoiding overloading and ensuring regular maintenance.

Though this fire is a heart-wrenching reminder of the risks present in everyday household appliances, the community's compassion and readiness to help provide a glimmer of hope amidst the sorrow. The collective mourning and support for the Ahmed family reflect a strong, resilient community longing to support one another during this tragically difficult time.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html), [[3]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/yorkshire-family-lost-everything-after-tumble-dryer-caused-huge-blaze-at-their-home-4419860), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-51676561)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-49458502), [[6]](https://www.wigantoday.net/read-this/tumble-dryer-blaze-ruins-familys-home-4420552)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/house-fire-heckmondwike-police-update-b2767506.html> - A tragic house fire occurred in Russell Close, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, resulting in the deaths of 38-year-old Sohaib Ahmed and his nine-year-old daughter, Manahal. An 11-year-old daughter sustained serious injuries and remains in critical condition in hospital. West Yorkshire Police have initiated an investigation into the cause of the fire. Councillor Darren O'Donovan stated that initial findings suggest the fire originated in the kitchen area, with a tumble dryer identified as the ignition source. He highlighted the prevalence of recalled tumble dryers and the impact on the local community. Councillor Ali Arshad praised the victims' family as 'absolutely amazing people'. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service responded with four crews to the blaze, reported around 6 am. Detective Inspector Paul Greatorex of Kirklees CID mentioned ongoing efforts to support the victims' relatives and prepare a file for the coroner, noting no suspicious circumstances regarding the fire's cause.
3. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/yorkshire-family-lost-everything-after-tumble-dryer-caused-huge-blaze-at-their-home-4419860> - A mother-of-three from Yorkshire recounted the devastation caused by a tumble dryer fire that destroyed her home. The incident occurred on October 19 when the dryer, purchased just weeks prior, ignited while left unattended. Neighbours alerted the family, and fortunately, no one was injured. The fire caused extensive damage, rendering the house uninhabitable for months. Leeds City Council investigated and confirmed the tumble dryer as the fire's cause, with no evidence of faulty electrical installation. The council arranged temporary accommodation for the family during repairs. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service advised on tumble dryer safety, including not overloading the machine, avoiding drying contaminated clothing, and regular maintenance.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-51676561> - Three individuals were sentenced for their roles in a 'shocking' arson attack in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, where a family was forced to escape by jumping from an upstairs window. Mohammed Iftikar Azad, 45, was convicted of attempted murder and received a 32-year prison sentence. Vishal Thapar, 32, and Semia Hussain, 26, were convicted of arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered, receiving sentences of nine and six years, respectively. The attack occurred in August 2019, with the family narrowly escaping the blaze in Stonedene Court. Detective Chief Inspector Sharron Kaye expressed the emotional and psychological trauma suffered by the family and the community's relief at the sentences.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-49458502> - Two men and a woman were charged with attempted murder following an arson attack on a house in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire. The incident occurred on August 11, with the family escaping by jumping from an upstairs window. Mohammed Iftikhar, 45, Vishal Thapar, 31, and Semia Hussain, 25, were charged and due to appear at Leeds Magistrates' Court. The attack prompted widespread concern and highlighted the severity of arson-related crimes in the area.
6. <https://www.wigantoday.net/read-this/tumble-dryer-blaze-ruins-familys-home-4420552> - A Wigan family experienced significant loss after a tumble dryer fire destroyed their home. The incident occurred when the dryer, purchased recently, ignited while left unattended. Neighbours alerted the family, and fortunately, no one was injured. The fire caused extensive damage, rendering the house uninhabitable for months. Leeds City Council investigated and confirmed the tumble dryer as the fire's cause, with no evidence of faulty electrical installation. The council arranged temporary accommodation for the family during repairs. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service advised on tumble dryer safety, including not overloading the machine, avoiding drying contaminated clothing, and regular maintenance.
7. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/mohammed-azad-heckmondwike-house-fire-17832157> - Mohammed Azad, 45, was sentenced to 32 years in prison for orchestrating a house fire in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, in August 2019. The attack was intended to kill the family inside, leading to the deaths of Sohaib Ahmed and his daughter, Manahal. Azad had persuaded Vishal Thapar, 32, and Semia Hussain, 26, to set fire to the family's home. The incident prompted public outbursts in court, highlighting the community's shock and anger over the crime.