



## FACT SHEET

### No. 19 – Away From Home Fire Safety Checklist

Version 02

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#### FACT

Fires can and do occur in unoccupied houses and units while people are away taking a break. Simple fire safety precautions before you leave on holidays may prevent a fire, or minimise its impact on you and your home.

#### HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME WHEN GOING AWAY ON A HOLIDAY

Before leaving your home for an extended period the fire services recommend that you:

- Consider switching off and disconnecting non-essential electrical appliances and IT equipment.
- Test your smoke alarms and change batteries if required to ensure they still function.
- Let a neighbour or family friend know of your whereabouts and contact details. Ask them to watch your home and to notify the fire service on Triple Zero (000) if your smoke alarms operate.
- Ensure that any electrical items you decide to leave on continuously, or on timer circuits, are in good working order. If you live in a bushfire prone area, prepare your home properly before you leave.
- Ensure that any lights you have left switched on are in a safe location away from combustibles such as curtains and are of a correct wattage to prevent overheating.
- Switch off and empty clothes dryers before you leave.
- Close all internal doors before you leave to help to contain any fire that occurs.
- Extinguish any incense, candles or oil burners.
- Take time to do a thorough final check of your home before your leave.

#### WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU DO TO MAKE YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE?

- Check out the following electricity providers websites for additional information:
  - <http://www.transgrid.com.au/>
  - <http://www.integral.com.au/>
  - <http://www.energy.com.au/ea/earetail.nsf.Content/Your+Home>

#### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Remember if driving to your holiday destination make sure you plan to “arrive alive” and stop to revive every two hours.
- Whilst away ensure your holiday destination has a working smoke alarm and draw up and practice a fire escape plan with your family.



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:  
[www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) or [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)**

**PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT**

