



FACT SHEET

No. 21 – Seniors Fire Safety

Version 02

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FACT

Nearly one third of all victims in fatal house fires are seniors. In fact, seniors are more likely to be injured or killed in a house fire than any other group. Fire services are focusing on Seniors Fire Safety to highlight the potential dangers of house fires for older Australians.

The majority of residential fires begin in the kitchen and are often as a result of cooking being left unattended on the stove. Other common causes of fire include mechanical failure and appliances not being switched off at the power point.

There are simple steps seniors, and everyone else, should take to improve fire safety in the home.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Install and maintain smoke alarms. Fire services recommend photo-electric smoke alarms, connected to the 240V system by a licenced electrician, and interconnected so that when one activates they all sound.
- If you're elderly or disabled and unable to maintain your smoke alarms, then contact your local fire station. Firefighters assist the elderly to make sure that their smoke alarms are working effectively.
- Develop and practice a home escape plan regularly.
- Install deadlocks that can be opened from the inside without keys. Where the door needs a key to operate, leave keys in locks so that you can escape in an emergency.
- If you have difficulty hearing, then consider installing special smoke alarms which have a flashing strobe light and vibrating pad that can be placed under a pillow and which activates when the smoke alarm sounds.
- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000). Never assume that somebody else has done so.
- Have an adequate number of smoke alarms installed and test them regularly.
- Have an escape plan that all occupants understand in case of fire and practice it at least once a month.
- Where possible know two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- Don't fight the fire – get out and stay out and dial Triple Zero (000) immediately.
- Close internal doors when leaving your home to reduce fire spread.
- Smoking in bed is dangerous. **NEVER** smoke in bed.
- Have an approved electrical safety switch (residual current device) installed.
- Don't overload power points.
- Switch off small appliances when not in use.

REMEMBER

For assistance with the installation of smoke alarms and changing their batteries contact your local fire station.



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:
www.fire.nsw.gov.au or www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or www.esa.act.gov.au

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT

