

# FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION IN THE HOME





## DID YOU KNOW?



YOU ARE **TWICE** AS LIKELY TO DIE IN A HOME FIRE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM.



THE MISUSE OF HEATERS, CIGARETTES AND CANDLES ARE COMMON CAUSES OF FIRES.



WHEN YOU ARE ASLEEP, YOU WILL NOT SMELL THE SMOKE FROM A FIRE.

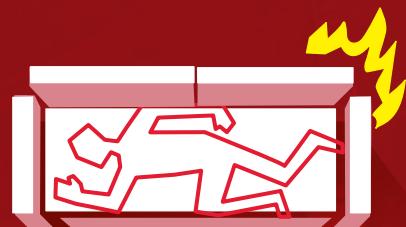


FIRE AND RESCUE  
NSW RESPONDS TO  
APPROXIMATELY

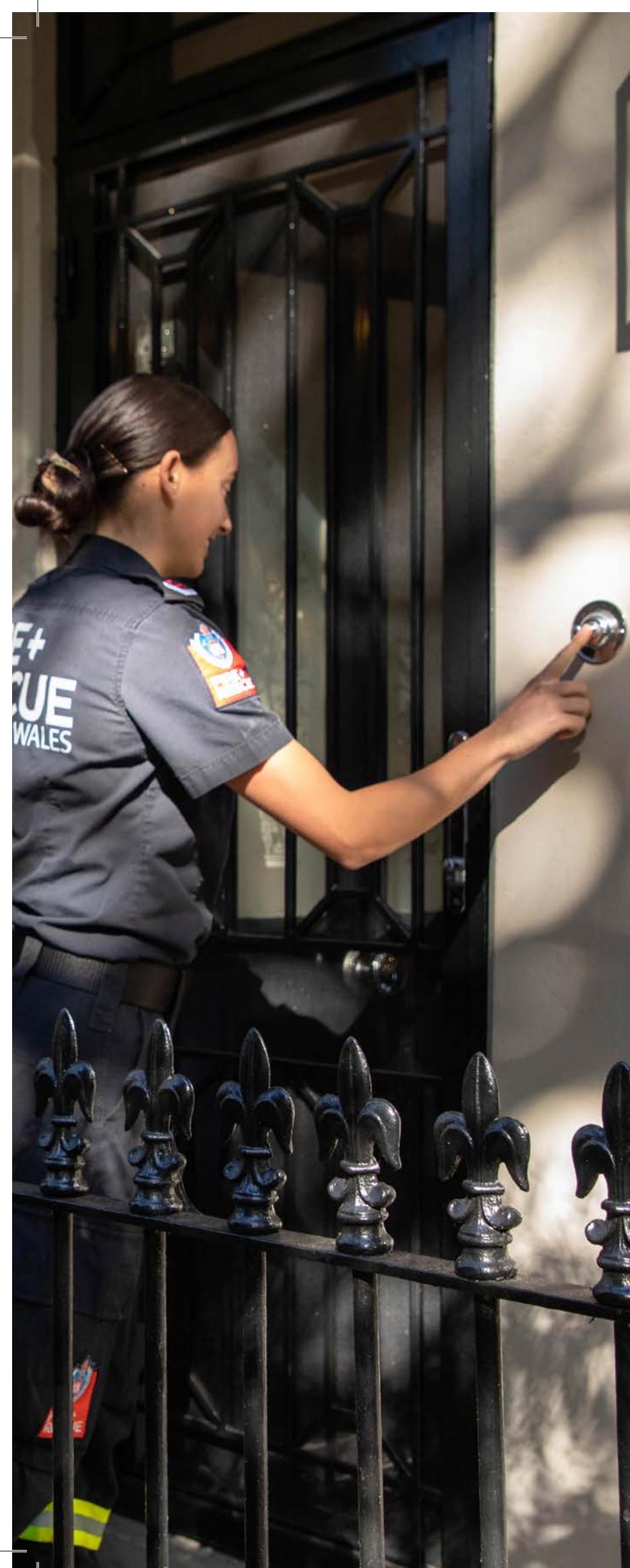
4500<sup>°</sup>

RESIDENTIAL FIRES EACH  
YEAR. HALF OF THESE  
FIRES START IN THE  
KITCHEN, MOSTLY DUE TO  
UNATTENDED COOKING.

ELECTRICAL  
APPLIANCES  
AND FAULTS  
CAUSE ALMOST  
40% OF HOME  
FIRES.



THE MAJORITY OF DEATHS  
HAPPEN IN FIRES THAT  
START IN THE LOUNGE  
ROOM OR BEDROOM.



# BE HOME FIRE SAFE PROTECT THE IRREPLACEABLE

Congratulations, you have taken the first step in making your home a safer place.

By reading this brochure, being informed and taking action on our helpful tips, you are helping to ensure that you and your family stay safe.

At Fire and Rescue NSW, we believe fighting fires is not just about calling us in when things get out of control. It all starts with you in the home.

Our role is to inform the public about fire safety before a fire actually happens. Protecting the irreplaceable is the core of what we do.

If you do your bit to minimise the risks in your home, we can all stay safer together.

Fire and Rescue NSW.

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## PREVENTING A FIRE IN YOUR HOME

p7

- a. Cooking safely
- b. Barbeque safety
- c. Fire safety around the home

2

## PREPARING YOUR HOME

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- a. Smoke alarms
- b. Plan a safe escape
- c. Bushfire home preparation
- d. Are you prepared to keep your family safe?

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## PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN A HOME FIRE

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- a. What to do in case of a fire
- b. Fire safety equipment



1

# PREVENTING A FIRE IN YOUR HOME

- a. Cooking safely
- b. Barbeque safety
- c. Fire safety around the home

# COOKING SAFELY



**FACT** - Almost half of all home fires start in the kitchen.

The leading cause of home fires in NSW is leaving cooking unattended.

✖ Never leave cooking unattended. Stay in the kitchen while cooking and turn off the stove before you leave.

✖ Do not put anything metallic in the microwave and always double-check the timer.

✖ Avoid cooking under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

✓ Flammable materials such as aerosols, cleaning agents and cooking oils should be stored away from heat.



 Keep matches out of reach of children.

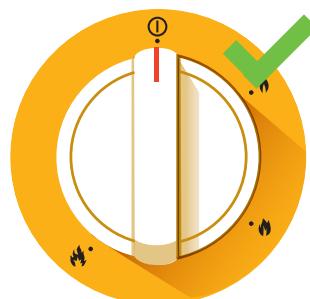
 Keep your oven, rangehood and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of grease and fat can ignite in a fire.

 Turn pot handles inwards.

 Keep loose clothing, fabrics, tea towels, curtains and flammable items away from the stove.

Children need constant supervision to protect them from the dangers of fires, burns and scalds.

## IF YOUR PAN CATCHES FIRE HERE IS WHAT TO DO



Turn off the stove (if safe to do so) and use the lid to cover the flame.



Use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket in the first few seconds of ignition if you are confident.



Never use water to put out a fat or oil fire.



Leave the kitchen, close the door and call Triple Zero ('000').

# BARBECUE SAFETY

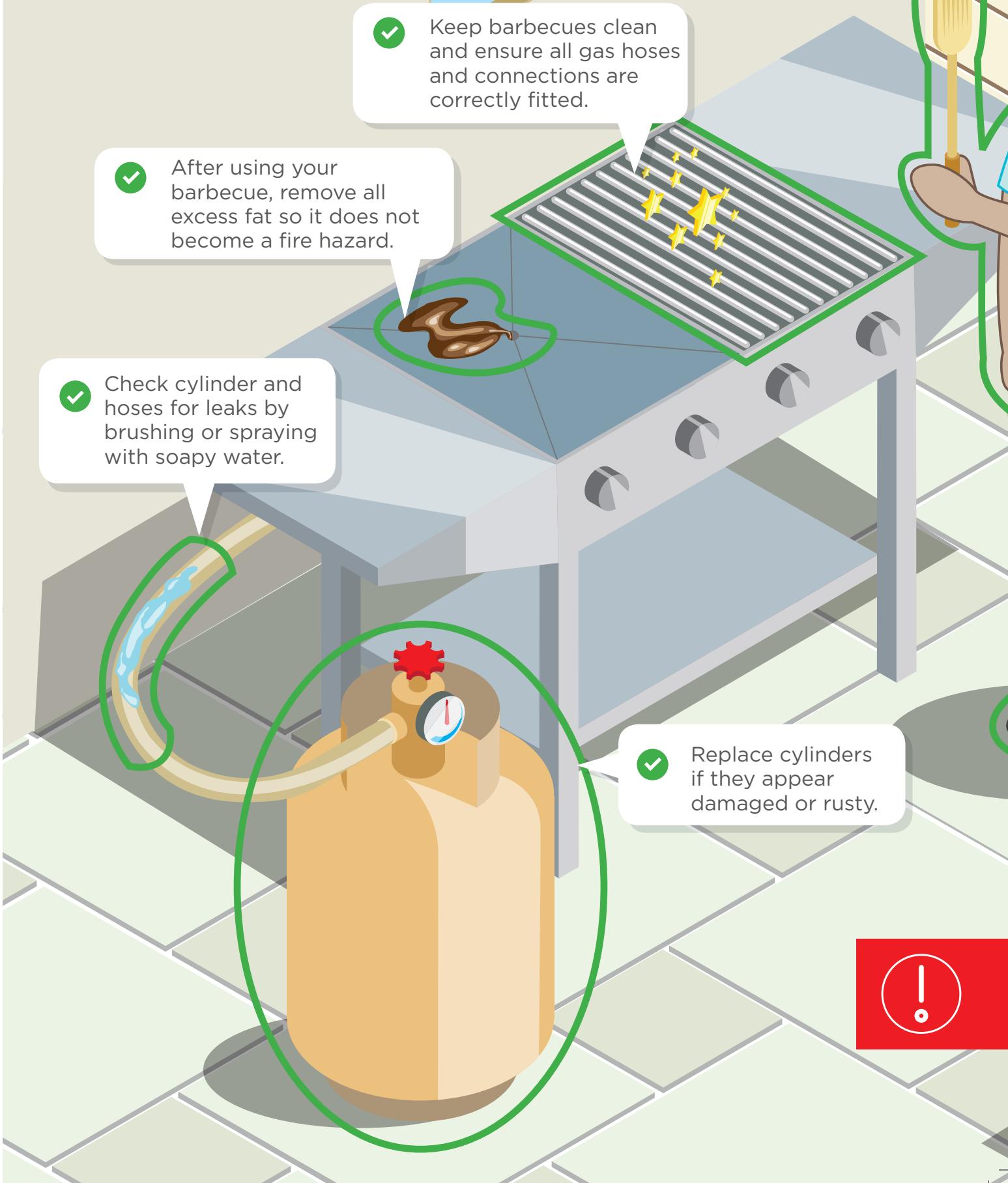
The backyard barbie can be a common cause of fires during summer. Here are some pointers:

✓ Keep barbecues clean and ensure all gas hoses and connections are correctly fitted.

✓ After using your barbecue, remove all excess fat so it does not become a fire hazard.

✓ Check cylinder and hoses for leaks by brushing or spraying with soapy water.

✓ Replace cylinders if they appear damaged or rusty.



 There should be an adult in charge of a lit barbecue at all times.

## LPG AND GAS CYLINDER SAFETY



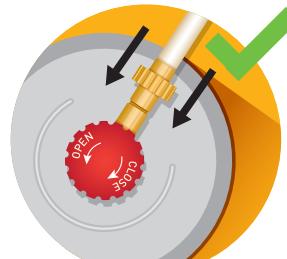
Never use portable LPG cylinders indoors or in confined spaces.



Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.



Check the expiry date before using a gas cylinder.



Ensure connections on hoses are tight with no leakage.



Never check for leaks with a naked flame.



Never use a hose that has perished or is cracked.

Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) can be extremely dangerous if stored or used incorrectly.

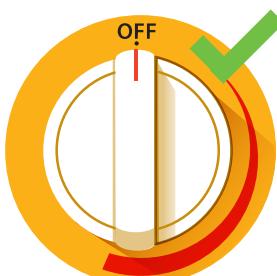
# FIRE SAFETY AROUND THE HOME

Prevent fires by following these fire safety tips in your home:

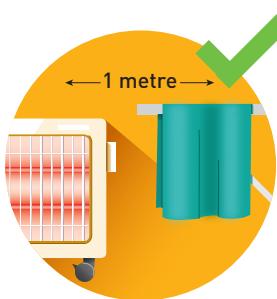


## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

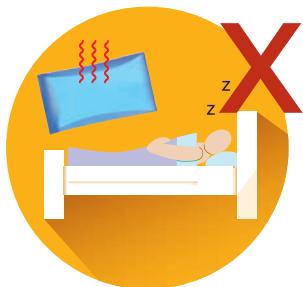
1. Do not overload powerpoints and powerboards.
2. Regularly check electrical leads for damage and faults.
3. Never use faulty electrical leads or appliances.
4. Store your electric blanket safely – roll do not fold.
5. Before going to bed, turn off all electrical appliances at the powerpoint.
6. Turn off electric blankets and heaters when you are not at home and before getting into bed.
7. Do not overcharge devices and use only Australian certified chargers.



## HEATERS AND OPEN FIRES



1. Keep everything one metre away from your heater.
2. Install and use as per manufacturer's instructions.
3. If you suspect a fault, have the heater serviced or replaced.
4. Always supervise young children in rooms with open fires or working heaters.
5. Ensure flues and chimneys are regularly cleaned.
6. Strong fire screens should be set up in front of open fires.



## WHEAT BAGS

1. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when heating wheat bags in the microwave.
2. Never use wheat bags in bed. They can continue to heat and self ignite.
3. Do not reheat wheat bags until they have properly cooled.



## CLOTHES DRYERS

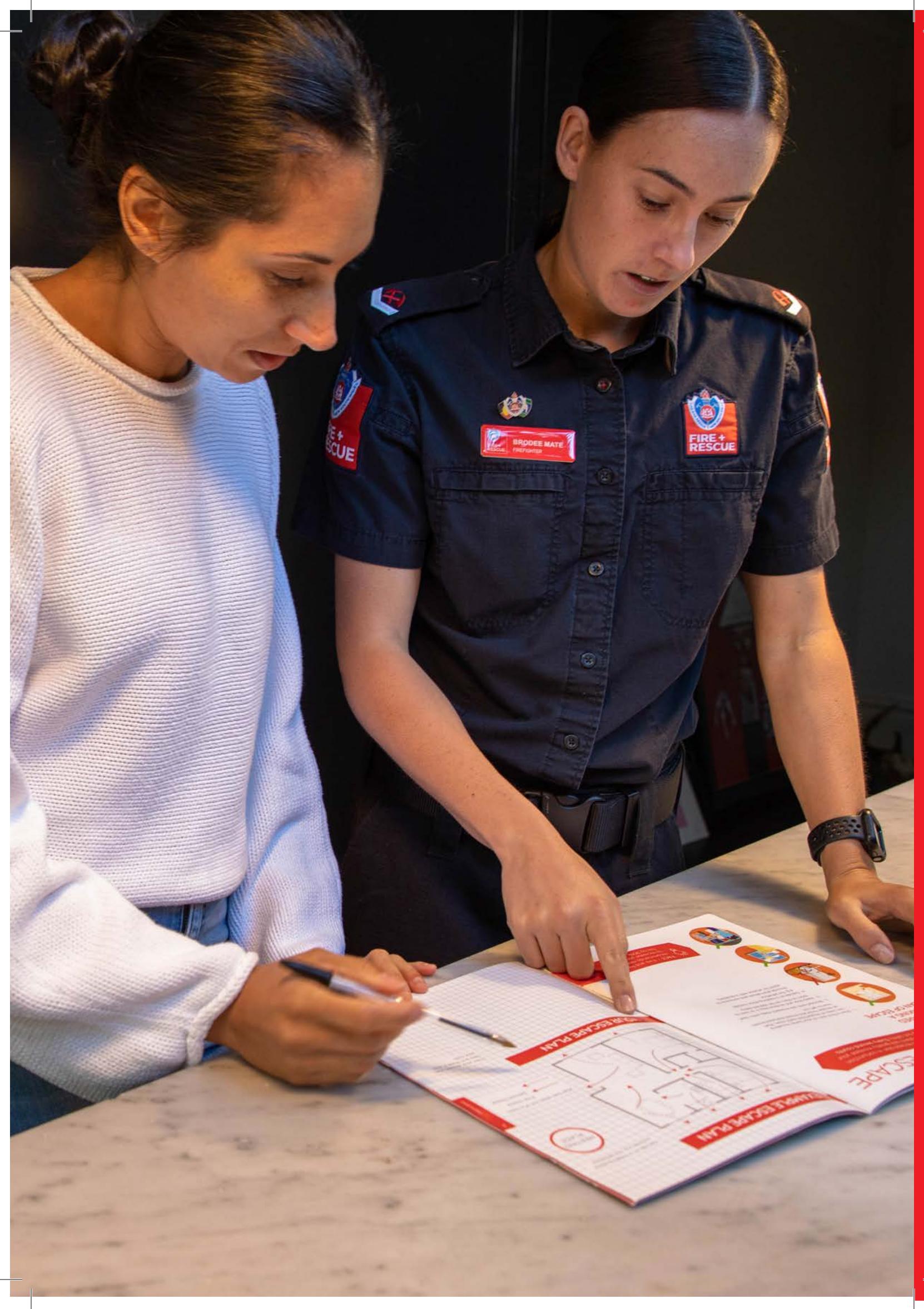
1. Clean your lint filter before or after each use.
2. Ensure there is adequate air flow around your dryer.
3. Do not leave the dryer operating when you are not home.



## CIGARETTES AND CANDLES

1. Keep candles well away from curtains with open windows.
2. Put them out when you leave the room.
3. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
4. An adult should be present at all times when a candle is being used.
5. Extinguish cigarettes properly before disposal.
6. Never smoke in bed. It is extremely dangerous.
7. Smokers should only use child-proof lighters, Australian Fire Risk Standard Compliant cigarettes and deep, non-flammable ashtrays.





Pen

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

SCAPE

# 2

## PREPARING YOUR HOME

2

PREPARING

- a. Smoke alarms
- b. Plan a safe escape
- c. Bushfire home preparation
- d. Are you prepared to keep your family safe?

# SMOKE ALARMS

Stay safe by following these simple smoke alarm guidelines:

## CHOOSING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS



## INSTALLING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS



1. Smoke alarms installed in homes must have the Australian Standard symbol on the packaging to indicate compliance with AS 3786.
2. **Smoke alarms should be hard-wired and interconnected** where there is more than one alarm. Where mains-powered smoke alarms cannot be installed, Fire and Rescue NSW recommends the use of smoke alarms with long-life batteries.
3. Strobe light and vibration pad alarms are available for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.
4. Follow manufacturer's recommendations on which alarms are suitable for different areas of the home.

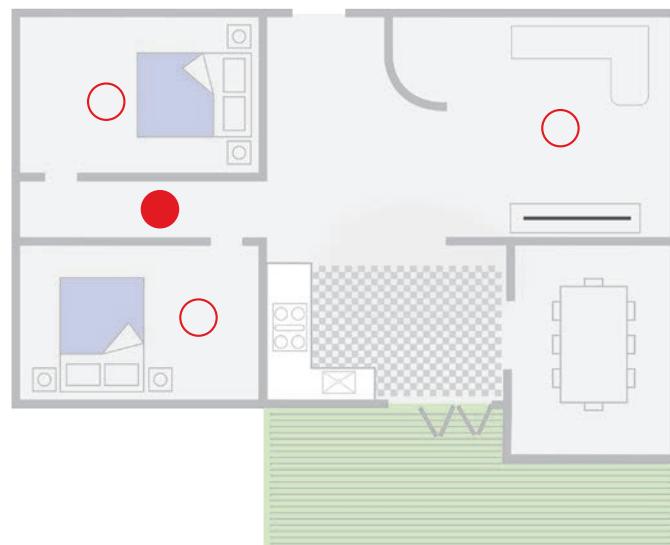
1. It is the law to have a working smoke alarm installed in each hallway associated with bedrooms and at least one on every level of your home. This includes owner occupied homes, rental properties, relocatable homes, caravans and camper-vans or any other room where people sleep.
2. Fire and Rescue NSW recommends installing smoke alarms in all bedrooms or areas where people sleep and in all living areas.
3. In addition to the minimum legislative requirements, Fire and Rescue NSW recommends installing smoke alarms in all bedrooms where people sleep.
4. Hard-wired smoke alarms need to be installed by a licensed electrician.
5. Always install smoke alarms in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
6. If it is difficult for you to fit one yourself, contact your local Fire and Rescue NSW station for help.



**FACT -** Having a working smoke alarm increases your survival in a home fire by 50%.

## SINGLE FLOOR PLAN

- Smoke Alarms for Minimum Protection
- Smoke Alarms for Additional Protection

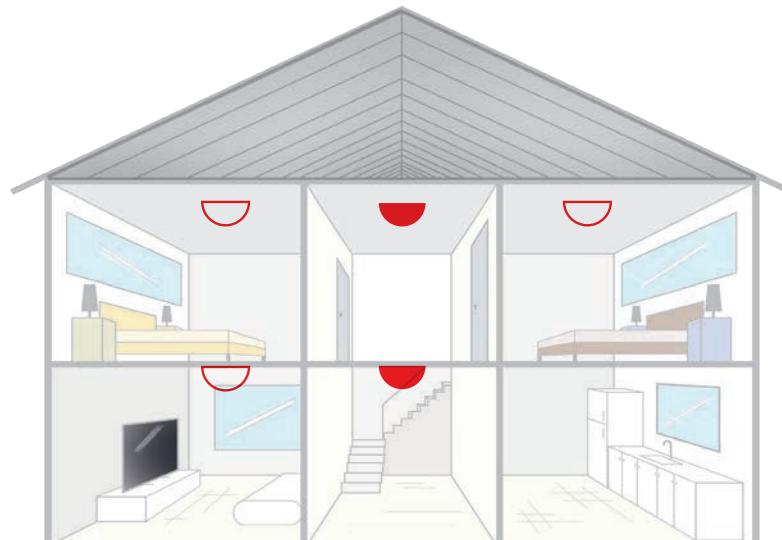


2

PREPARING

## MULTI-LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

- Smoke Alarms for Minimum Protection
- Smoke Alarms for Additional Protection



## MAINTAINING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS



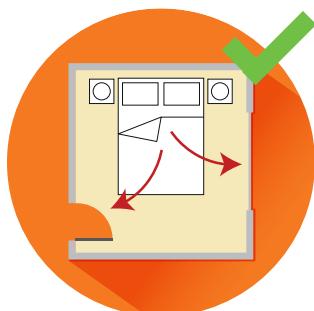
1. Test your smoke alarm batteries every month by pressing and holding the test button for five seconds. Replace removeable batteries every 12 months or where required.
2. Vacuum dust off alarms every six months.
3. Replace smoke alarms with a new alarm every 10 years or earlier, if specified by the manufacturer.
4. For more information on smoke alarms, visit: **fire.nsw.gov.au** and **planning.nsw.gov.au**

# PLAN A SAFE ESCAPE



**FACT** - Having a home fire escape plan in conjunction with a working smoke alarm will greatly increase your chances of getting out safely. Every second counts.

## BE PREPARED BY MAKING A PLAN OF ESCAPE

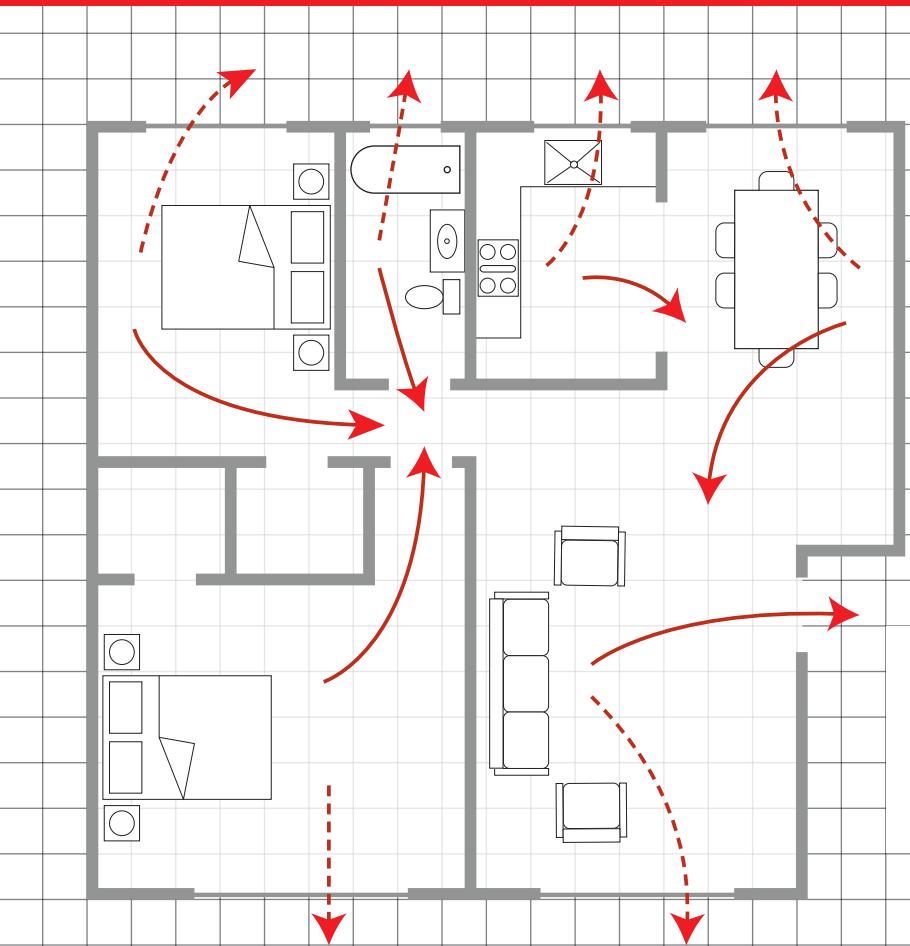


1. Draw a floor plan of your home, including two ways of escape from each room. Plan an escape route and ensure everyone knows how to get out.
2. Blocked exits are a hazard. Keep exits clear.
3. Keep door and window keys in or next to locks so they can be opened easily.
4. Decide on a meeting place outside e.g. the letterbox.  
Provide alternatives and someone to assist for anyone with a disability.



**FACT** - Fire and Rescue NSW recommends residential sprinklers to increase your survival in a home fire by 90%.

## EXAMPLE ESCAPE PLAN



Decide on a meeting place outside e.g. the letterbox.

MEETING  
PLACE

Plan two ways out of a room.

First choice  
Second Choice

2

PREPARING

## YOUR ESCAPE PLAN

Draw your escape plan here and share it with your family.

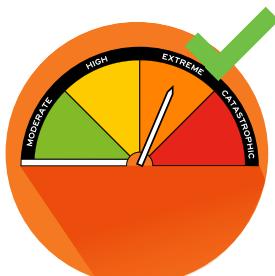
# BUSHFIRE HOME PREPARATION

## PREPARE



1. Prepare your home. A well prepared home is more likely to survive a fire.
2. Prepare your family. Make a Bush Fire Survival Plan and talk about it with your family.
3. Download your Bush Fire Survival Plan from the NSW RFS website at [rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan) or get the MyFirePlan smartphone app.
4. Know the fire danger rating for your area. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions.
5. Use the fire danger rating as your trigger for action. Don't leave it until the last minute.
6. Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan.
7. Leaving early is your safest option. Leaving early means leaving well before the fire affects your area or your home.
8. Stay up to date on bush fires in your area by monitoring [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au), listening to local radio or monitoring social media.
9. In an emergency call Triple Zero ('000').

## ACT

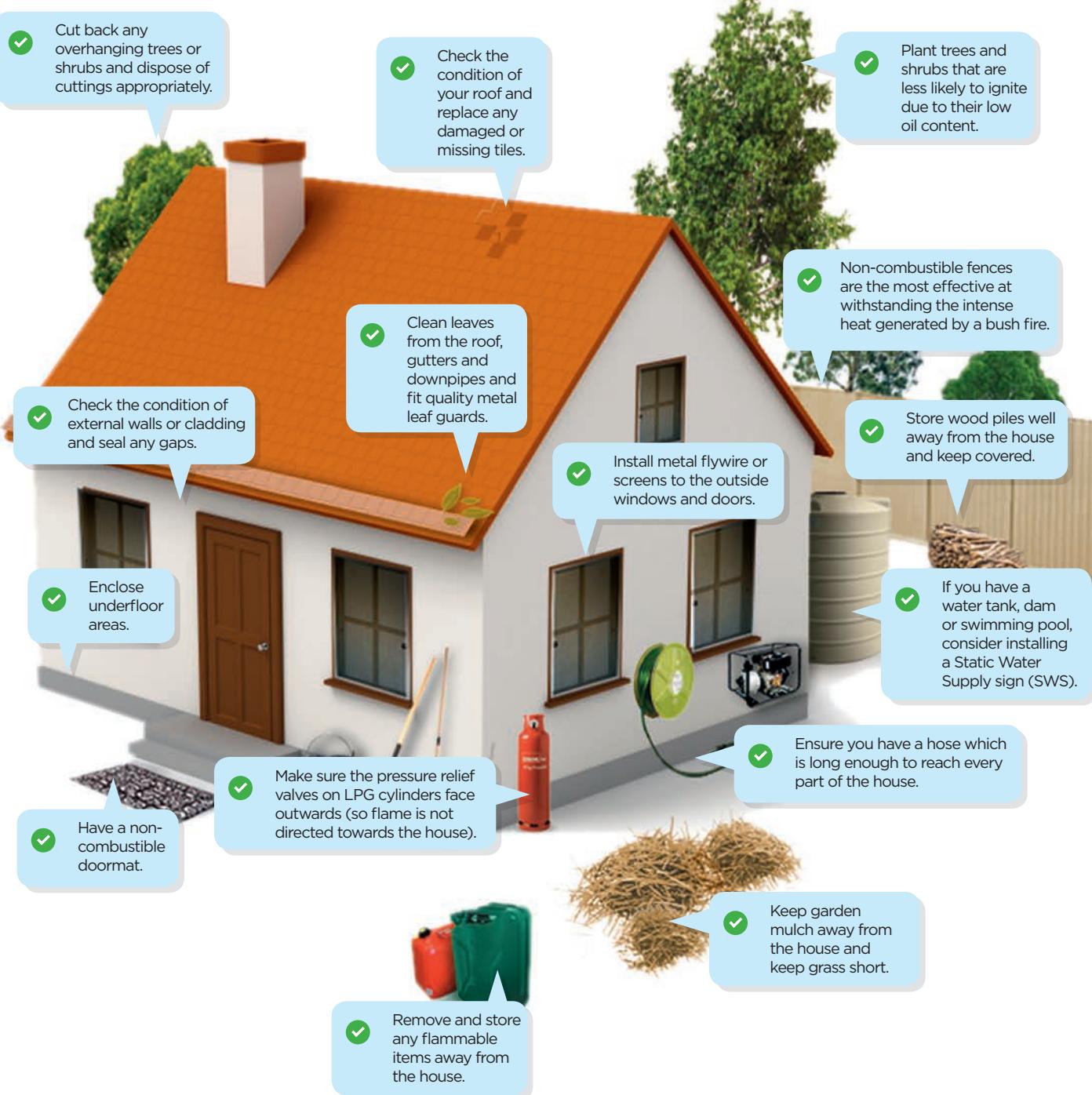


## SURVIVE



# PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

# ARE YOU PREPARED TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE?



2

PREPARING



Insurance: Maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance.



# 3

## PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN A HOME FIRE

- a. What to do in case of a fire
- b. Fire safety equipment

3

PROTECTING

# WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A FIRE

Be prepared by using the following caution when in an emergency:



**FACT** - A fire can become unsurvivable in less than three minutes.



If you hear your smoke alarm, see a sprinkler operating or there is a fire in your home:

1. Keep calm and act quickly, get everyone out as soon as possible.
2. Do not waste time investigating what's happened or rescuing valuables.
3. If there is smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
4. If it is safe to do so, close all doors on the way out to prevent fire and smoke from spreading.
5. Once you get out, stay out. Never go back inside a burning building.
6. Call Triple Zero ('000') from a neighbour's or your mobile phone.



# FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Practice what to do. Know your equipment. Only use a fire blanket or fire extinguisher within the first few seconds of ignition if you feel confident.

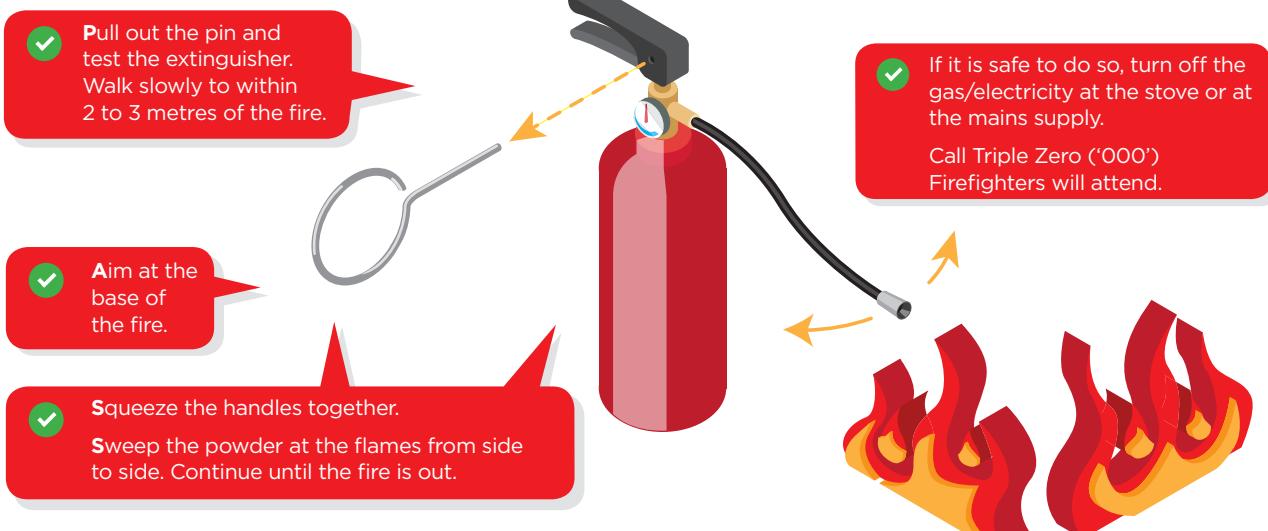
## FIRE BLANKETS



1. Keep fire blankets accessible in the kitchen and away from the stove.
2. Take hold of the two tabs and pull the blanket from its container.
3. Hold the tabs towards yourself and protect your hands.
4. Walk slowly towards the fire and stretch out your arms in front of you.
5. As the blanket touches the top of the stove, place it over the fire.
6. Leave the blanket over the pot for at least thirty minutes.
7. If it is safe to do so, turn off the gas/electricity at the stove or at the main supply.
8. Call Triple Zero ('000'). Firefighters will attend.

**NB. A fire blanket is designed to be used once only.**

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Locate equipment near exit door.





## FIRE AND RESCUE NSW'S SAFETY VISIT PROGRAM

A Safety Visit assists people to reduce their risk of an accidental fire in the home and to safely escape in the event of a fire occurring. A **FREE** Safety Visit will ensure you have a working smoke alarm and provide you with a number of helpful fire safety tips.

Contact your local fire station to ask about the Safety Visit program.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit [fire.nsw.gov.au](https://fire.nsw.gov.au) or contact your local fire station.

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