SMOKE ALARMS

THE EARLIER A FIRE IS DETECTED, THE GREATER THE CHANCE OF ESCAPING SAFELY.

SABRE
The SABRE (Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly) program is designed to support older people, residing in their own homes, to live independently and remain valuable assets in the community.

SABRE is designed to help frail aged and disabled people maintain their smoke alarms. This will in turn increase community safety awareness, education and confidence in regards to fire and other safety issues across NSW.

If you unable to maintain your smoke alarm and do not have access to someone to help you call your local NSW Fire Brigade Fire Station and ask them for help.
SMOKE ALARMS

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS WHEN USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ESCAPE PLAN WILL INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF GETTING OUT SAFELY.

Legislation states a minimum requirement of at least one smoke alarm per floor.

NSW Fire Brigades recommends the installation of hard wired and interconnected photo electric smoke alarms.

Don’t put a smoke alarm in a bathroom.

Don’t put an ionisation smoke alarm near cooking areas.

UPDATING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

When you are sleeping you cannot smell smoke. Smoke alarms save lives. They wake you and alert you to the danger from smoke and fire.

Smoke alarms were made compulsory in NSW in May 2006 in existing homes.

Since 1996 new homes in NSW must have hard wired smoke alarms installed prior to occupancy. The majority of alarms have a ten year life span so check your alarm to see if it needs replacing.

Smoke alarms have helped save the lives of hundreds of people in Australia.

NSW Fire Brigades urges all households to supplement their existing smoke alarms by installing one in every bedroom as well as positioning one alarm to detect smoke before it reaches sleeping occupants (between bedrooms and the kitchen where the majority of fires start).
HOME ESCAPE PLAN

BE PREPARED: HAVE A HOME ESCAPE PLAN

> Draw a floor plan of your home.
> Draw your escape plan and when complete place it somewhere prominent in your household to keep fresh in your mind (for example, on your fridge).
> Include two means of escape from each room.
> Discuss it with other occupants.
> Make sure that windows and screens can be easily opened.
> Provide alternatives for anyone with a disability.
> The first priority is to get out of a burning house.
> If there is a fire, close the door as you are leaving a room to prevent fire and smoke from spreading.
> When there is smoke, always crawl low to get under the smoke.
> Decide on a safe outside meeting place eg. near the letterbox and phone Triple Zero (000) from a safe phone.
> Once you get out, STAY OUT, never go back inside a burning building.
> Practise your plan at least twice a year, making sure that everyone is involved.
BE PREPARED: Have a Home Escape Plan

In the event of a fire a working Smoke Alarm used in conjunction with an Escape Plan will greatly increase your chances of getting out safely.

Draw your Escape Plan on the grid – then place it where your family will see it – for example, on your fridge.
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PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT.
www.fire.nsw.gov.au
MAINTAINING SMOKE ALARMS

MAINTAINING A WORKING SMOKE ALARM

> Test smoke alarms every month by pressing the button.
> Vacuum alarms every six months to keep them clean.
> Change the batteries each year. At the end of Daylight Saving change your clock and change your smoke alarm batteries.
> Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarm with a new photo electric unit every ten years or when specified by manufacturers.
> Only use smoke alarms displaying the Australian Standard symbol.
> Most battery-powered smoke alarms can be easily installed by the home owner or a maintenance contractor and do not require professional installation.
> Hard-wired smoke alarms will need to be installed by a licensed professional.
> Always install a smoke alarm in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
> Smoke alarms are usually most effective when located on the ceiling, preferably away from walls and fittings.
CHECK LIST
Before leaving home for a holiday complete this check list.

1. Test your smoke alarms and change the batteries if required.
2. Switch off and unplug non-essential electrical appliances and IT equipment.
3. Let a neighbour or family friend know your contact details and whereabouts. Ask them to call the Fire Brigade on Triple Zero (000) if your smoke alarm activates.
4. If you live in a bushfire prone area, prepare your home properly before you leave. Ensure gutters are clear of leaves and debris and all combustible materials such as leaves, grass, timber and paper have been removed from around your home.
5. Close all internal doors before you leave to help contain any fire that occurs.

SECURITY
Make sure if there is a fire in your home you can get out quickly.

Keep your key in the deadlock if possible, or on a hook in the centre of the door.

OR
Install deadlocks that you can open from the inside without a key.

Make sure window security grilles open outward easily from the inside.

WHEN AT HOME, AN UNLOCKED DEADLOCK IS YOUR KEY TO SAFETY.
**FIRE SAFE CARAVANS AND MOBILE HOMES**

> Before towing your van or starting a mobile home engine. Turn off all gas cylinders.

> Gas cylinders must be on the outside of the van or mobile home or stored in an approved storage locker.

> Check all gas hoses and fittings regularly for fraying or splitting. Inspect copper tubing for damage, kinks and corrosion, especially after travelling on country roads.

> Always locate the closest public phone when arriving in a new destination.

> Ensure you have a radio with spare batteries. Local broadcasts will have up to date weather forecasts and emergency information when required.

> Turn off all appliances before turning in at night.

> Have and practise a Home Escape Plan.

> Install a Fire extinguisher and Fire Blanket and know how to use them.

> Ensure the electrical power lead to your van or mobile home is in good condition and the correct size for the power load.

> Store flammable liquids outside and away from the van or mobile home.

> Practise good house keeping around your van or mobile home property.

> Familiarise yourself with your holiday destination when you get there.
MANY PREVENTABLE HOUSE FIRES OCCUR IN WINTER. HELP PREVENT FIRE IN YOUR HOUSE.

HEATERS & OPEN FIRES

When having your heater installed ensure you correctly follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Ensure space is left between the heater and the wall.

Flues and chimneys require cleaning once a year.

Never leave anything flammable such as curtains, clothing, bedding and children’s toys within one metre of a heater.

Never place clothing on or near heaters and fires.

Before you retire for the night or leave your house, ensure fires are extinguished and heaters are turned off at their power source.

Strong fire screens should be securely placed in front of open fires.

Firewood must be stored away from the fire.

Young children must be supervised at all times in rooms where there are open fires or working heaters.
**WINTER FIRE SAFETY**

**KEEP YOURSELF WARM BUT REMEMBER WINTER FIRE SAFETY.**

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**ELECTRIC BLANKETS**

If not stored and used correctly electric blankets may start fires.

Make sure you have stored your electric blanket safely. Store flat if possible and with nothing on top of it to damage wiring.

When you take an electric blanket out in winter, check that the wires are completely flat and undamaged.

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Warm your bed by turning your electric blanket on for half an hour before you retire.

Then turn it off at the controls and the power source as you go to bed.

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**CLOTHES DRYERS**

Lint is a combustible material.

Lint filters need cleaning prior to every load.

Allow the dryer to complete its 'Cool Down' cycle to prevent overheating.

Always ensure there is adequate air flow around a dryer.

When not in use, dryers should be turned off at their power source. Similarly, dryers should be turned off before you retire for the night or leave your home.
You can obtain a copy of any of these brochures by calling us on 02 9265 2999, visiting your local Fire Station or from our website www.fire.nsw.gov.au