

NSW FIRE BRIGADES

**FIRE SAFETY
AND PREVENTION**
IN THE HOME

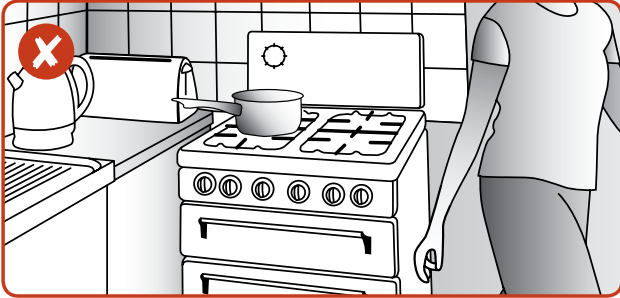


PREVENTPREPAREPROTECT.



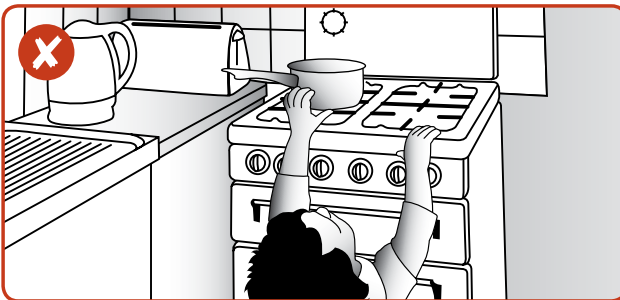
THE KITCHEN

ALMOST HALF OF ALL HOUSE FIRES START IN THE KITCHEN.
1 IN 4 CHILDREN ARE ALLOWED TO COOK UNSUPERVISED.



Cooking should never be left unattended.

Always stay in the kitchen while cooking and turn off the stove before you leave.



Accidents can happen very quickly.

To limit the risk of scald and burns to children ensure pot handles are turned inwards.



Fabrics and loose clothing can catch fire easily.

Keep your clothing away from heat.

Tie back long hair to prevent accidents.

Ensure curtains are kept away from the stove.

Don't store your tea towel over the oven handle.



Many substances in the kitchen are dangerous.

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

Ensure all hazardous substances and medications are stored out of the reach of children.



THE KITCHEN

CHILDREN NEED CONSTANT SUPERVISION TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE DANGERS OF FIRES, BURNS AND SCALDS.



Never use water to put out a fat or oil fire.
Heat oils carefully as hot oils and fats catch fire easily.



If a fire starts, turn off the stove or cover the flame if it is safe to do so.



Utilise a fire extinguisher or fire blanket if available.



Otherwise leave the kitchen, close the door and call the Fire Brigade.



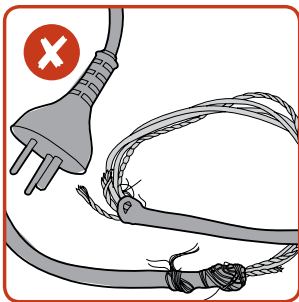
ELECTRICITY

PREVENT FIRES BY USING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SAFELY AND MAINTAINING IT REGULARLY.



The build up of grease, dust and dirt can fuel a fire.

All electrical appliances including toasters, air conditioners and filters on range hoods and clothes dryers need regular cleaning.



Fire caused by damaged and frayed cords can be prevented.

Cords on electrical appliances need regular checking. It is recommended that any repair to an electrical appliance be done by a licensed professional.



Improper use of power boards and double adaptors can lead to fires.

A double adaptor or a power board plugged into another double adaptor or power board can create a danger of overloading the system.



Incorrect use of extension cords can cause fires.

Leaving an extension cord coiled while in use or placing a cord under floor coverings can cause overheating.

Use a single extension cord rather than joining shorter cords.



ELECTRICITY



Be careful to keep electrical appliances away from water.

Be aware of the dangers of leaving or using electrical equipment around water.

Hair dryers and straighteners take time to cool down so allow them to cool on a non-combustible surface before storing.



Light globes can become very hot.

Don't cover a lamp with any type of fabric.

To dim a lamp it is recommended that a globe with a lower wattage is used.

Keep bathroom heat lamps clean of dust build up.



Computers, monitors, gaming consoles, TVs, VCR and DVD players can overheat and cause fires even when not in use.

They should be turned off after each session.

Good air circulation is necessary around TVs, VCR and DVD players.





OPEN FLAMES

CANDLES, MATCHES/LIGHTERS AND CIGARETTES CAN ALL BE DANGEROUS. PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR THE SAFE USE OF OPEN FLAMES.



Inappropriate disposal of cigarettes can cause a fire.

Dampen cigarette butts before disposing of them.
Smoking in bed is extremely dangerous.



Candles should be lit only when they are well away from curtains and open windows and should never be left alight when you leave the room.

An adult should be present at all times when a candle is being used.

Decorative candles can be dangerous if allowed to totally burn down.



Children should never be allowed to have access to matches or lighters.

Place candles on a level, fire resistant surface out of the reach of children.

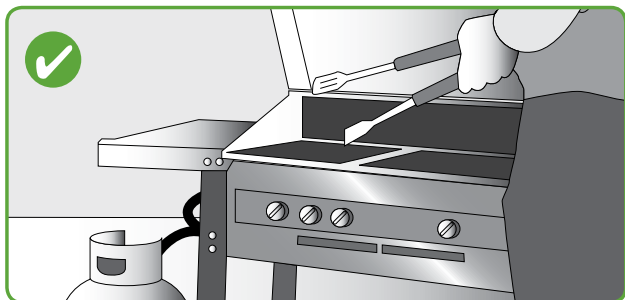
It is recommended that smokers use only child proof lighters and deep ashtrays.

Smokers should only have one lighter in the house and know where it is at all times.



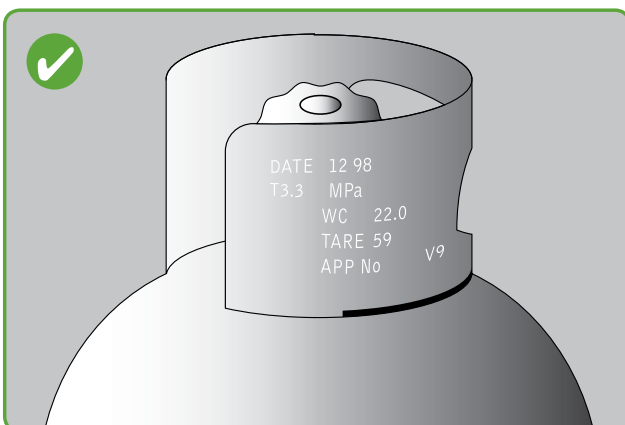
BARBEQUES

LPG CYLINDERS ARE SAFE IF USED AND STORED CORRECTLY.
ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S
INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE.



Protect your children from fire outside the house as well as inside.

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



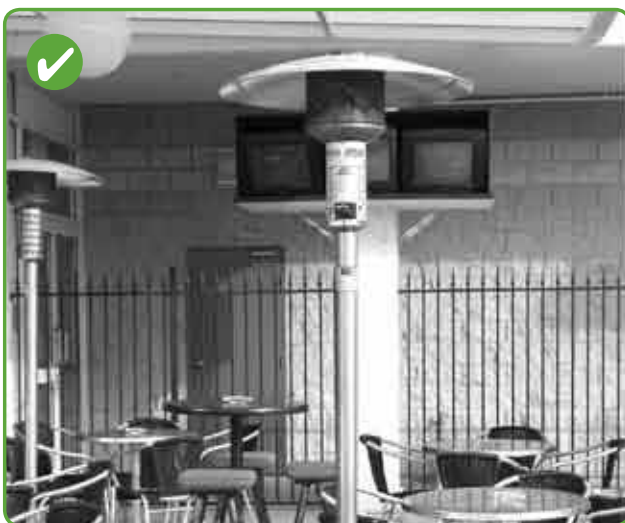
GAS CYLINDERS

Before using a gas cylinder check its expiry date.

Ensure that connections on the hose are tight and there is no leakage.

Check that the hose is intact and has not perished or cracked.

The quickest and safest way to refill an empty gas cylinder is via an exchange program, such as those found at service stations. Each full gas cylinder is either new or has been inspected and fully reconditioned by a trained technician.



PATIO HEATERS

Known to cause fires if incorrectly stored or maintained.

Only use in a well ventilated outdoor area on stable, level ground.

Keep clear of overhead coverings, such as awnings and shade sails.



WINTER FIRE SAFETY

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.



To protect children, check that their night clothes are labelled 'Low Fire Danger'. Natural fabrics, especially wool, have a 'Low Fire Danger'.



WINTER FIRE SAFETY

KEEP YOURSELF WARM BUT REMEMBER WINTER FIRE SAFETY.

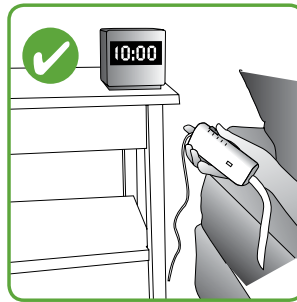
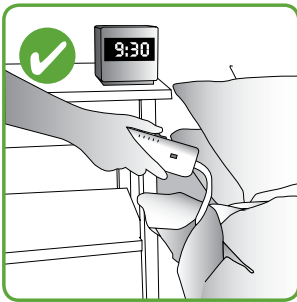


ELECTRIC BLANKETS

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.



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.



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.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

PRACTISE WHAT TO DO.
KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT.

FIRE BLANKETS



1 Take hold of the two tabs and pull the blanket out of its container.



2 Hold the tabs towards yourself to protect your hands.



3 Walk slowly towards the fire and stretch out your arms in front of you.



4 As the blanket hits the top of the stove, place it over the fire.



5 Leave the blanket over the pot.



6 If it is safe to do so, turn off the gas/electricity at the stove or at the main supply.



7 Call Triple Zero (000). Firefighters will attend.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
LOCATE EQUIPMENT NEAR EXIT DOOR.

DRY POWDER EXTINGUISHERS

- PULL
- AIM
- SQUEEZE
- SWEEP



Remove the extinguisher from its holder.



Pull out the pin and test the extinguisher. Walk slowly to within 2 to 3 metres of the fire. Don't get too close.



Aim at the base of the fire.



Squeeze the handles together.



Sweep the powder at the flames from side to side.



Continue until the fire is out.



If it is safe to do so, turn off the gas/electricity at the stove or at the main supply.

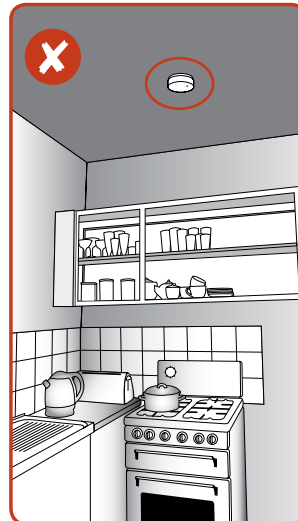
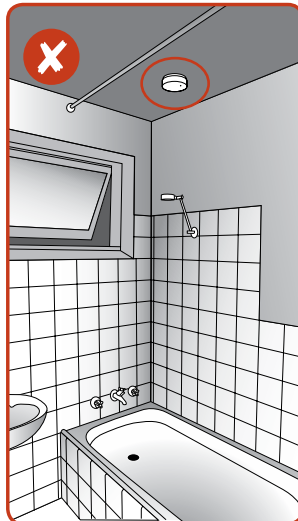
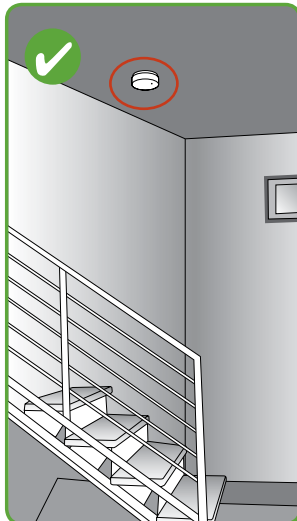


Call Triple Zero (000). Firefighters will attend.



SMOKE ALARMS

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

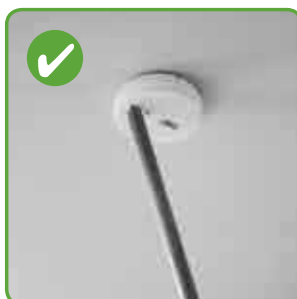


Legislation states a minimum requirement of at least one smoke alarm per floor.

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 ordinary smoke alarm near cooking areas.



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 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.

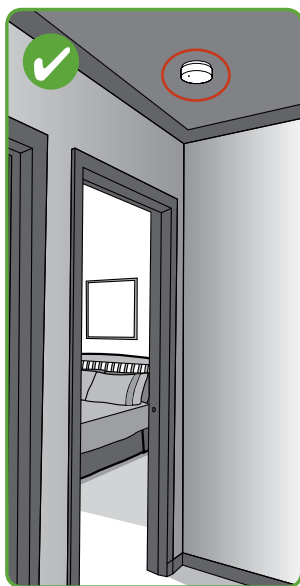
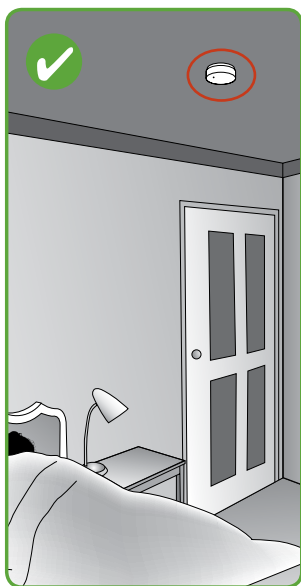


Australian Standard



SMOKE ALARMS

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



UPDATING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

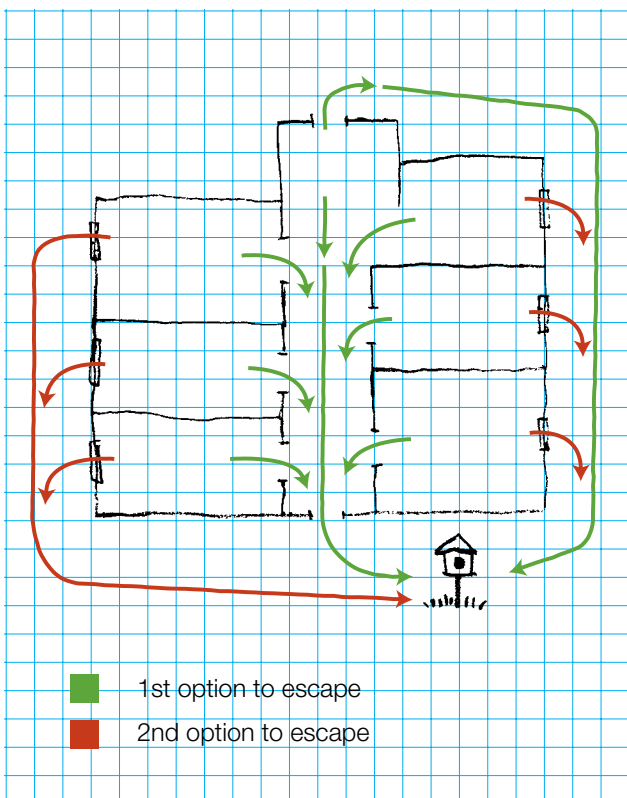
When you are sleeping you cannot smell smoke. Smoke alarms save lives. They wake you and alert you to the danger from smoke and fire.

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).



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.



SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

PREVENT HOLIDAY AND BBQ FIRES BY BEING PREPARED. YOUR HOME, HOLIDAY HOME AND CARAVAN NEED PREPARATION FOR A SAFE SUMMER.

Is your home in an area where development meets bushland? If so, then you live on the bushland urban interface.

Bushfires can be devastating. With an increasing number of people living in or near bushland, on semi-rural or urban residential estates, on the outskirts of our cities or towns, there are increasing numbers of people living with the threat of bushfire.

If you live in an area like those described above, then you face real danger from bushfire, including the threat to you, your family, your home, your belongings, community property, wildlife and the environment. However, there are things that you can do to minimise risk to you and your property. This information, combined with being prepared in case of bushfire and being aware of fire restrictions in your area will help you manage the threat of bushfire.

TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Bushfire is more likely to spread and cause damage on days when the weather is very hot, dry and windy. These are very high to extreme fire days. Total Fire Bans are declared on these days to reduce the risk of fires damaging or destroying life, property and the environment.

A Total Fire Ban means:

- > No fire may be lit in the open in the affected areas during the time of the ban, even for those people who have gained a Fire Permit.
- > The ban includes barbeques and incinerators which burn solid fuel, wood and charcoal.
- > Restrictions apply to gas and electric barbeques.

THERE ARE HEAVY FINES FOR NOT FOLLOWING THESE REGULATIONS.



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.

NSW FIRE BRIGADES

للحصول على المزيد من المعلومات المترجمة،
زوروا موقعنا الإلكتروني على العنوان التالي:
www.fire.nsw.gov.au

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Para sa karagdagang isinaling
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Website sa www.fire.nsw.gov.au

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NSW FIRE BRIGADES FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

- > IN THE HOME
- > FOR SENIORS
- > LIVING NEAR THE BUSH
- > SMOKE ALARMS IN THE 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



PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT.