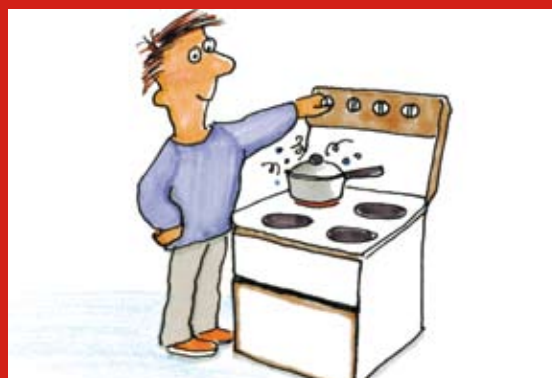


fire safety at home



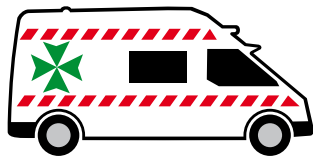
working smoke alarms **save lives**





000

EMERGENCY



fire safety at home



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prevention is the first step to a safe home



AT LEAST TWO METRES FROM THE HEATER!

(This is the latest recommended guideline)

SAFE HABITS FOR HEATING

Protect your home, family and treasured possessions by taking the right fire safety precautions. When you follow the correct safety measures, you are actively fighting fire.

Always keep clothes, newspapers, kindling and other flammable materials at least two metres from the heater or two giant steps away from it.

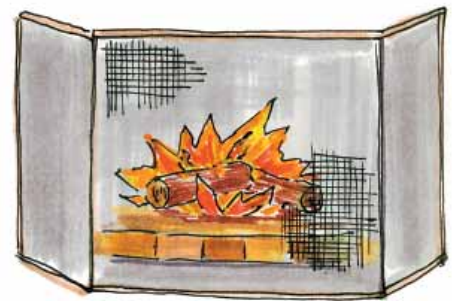
prevention is the first step to a safe home

Fixed heaters

- Have any fixed heaters installed to Australian Standards by a professional installer

Open fires and woodheaters

- Place a metal mesh fireguard in front of open fires and keep the door to woodheaters closed to protect against flying sparks and embers
- Unless it's got a good guard, put the fire out completely before leaving the house or going to bed
- Fireguards will also help protect children from burns

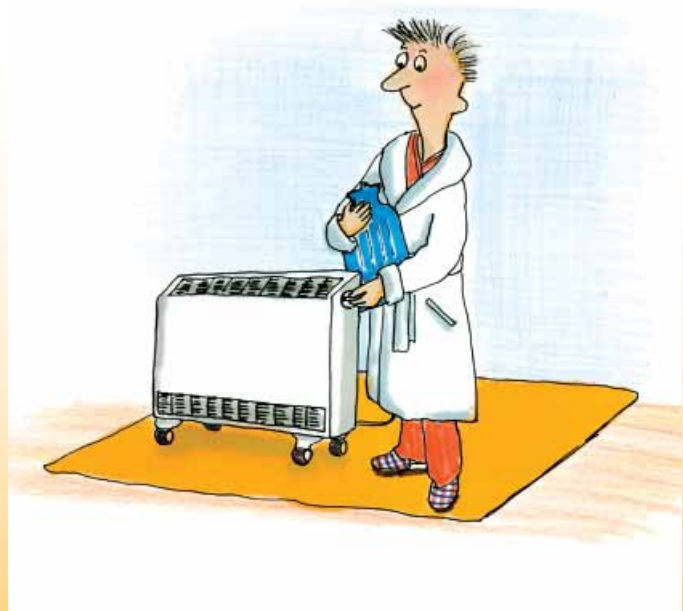


Chimneys and flues

- Have your flue installed to Australian Standards by a professional installer
- Clean your chimney or flue and check it at least once a year
- Insulate the flue from roofing timbers and wall panelling

Portable heaters

- If buying a portable heater buy one that will switch off when knocked over
- Keep portable heaters away from areas of heavy traffic
- Always turn off your portable heater when going to bed or leaving the house



the recipe for safe cooking



TURN IT OFF BEFORE YOU TURN AWAY!

SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN

Watch the pot

- Cooking fires are one of the most common causes of house fires in Tasmania
- Over-heated cooking oil or fat will catch fire and burn vigorously
- Never leave the stove when cooking
 - **Turn it Off Before You Turn Away!**

the recipe for safe cooking



Keep the cooking area clean and clear

- Curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and any other things that might burn must be kept well away from the cooking area
- Wipe up any spilt oil or fat

Control the splatter

- Cook with the right size pan and keep the heat low enough to keep the oil from smoking

No water

- Water does not put out fat and oil fires
- If you put water on burning oil or fat the fire will flare up suddenly and burn very quickly and very strongly
- Serious burn injuries are likely and the fire may spread rapidly



the recipe for safe cooking



Smothering the flame

If a fire does start on the stove –

- Turn off the heat source either on the stove or at the fuse box
- Smother the fire with a large pan, lid or fire blanket
- Slide the pot off the hot plate **very carefully** – **leave it on the stove**
- **Do not remove the lid or fire blanket until the pot has cooled, because the fire will re-light if the oil is still hot**
- Serious burn injuries may occur if you try to carry the burning pot – **leave it on the stove**
- If you can't put the fire out **call '000' for help**

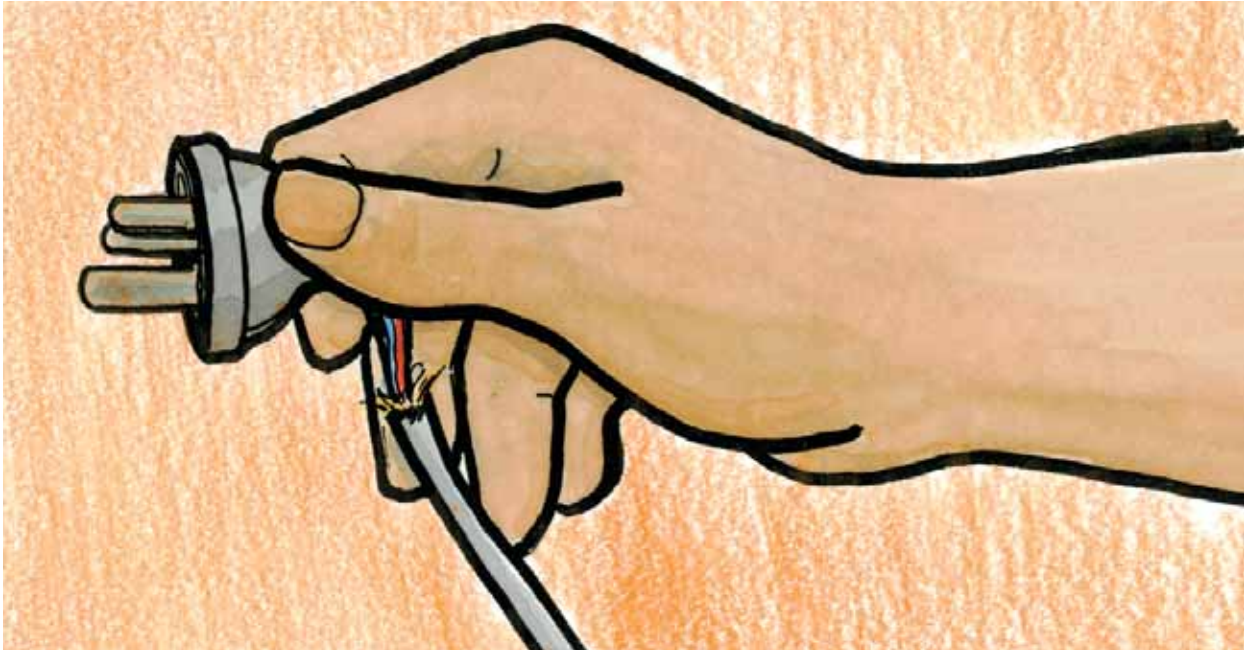


OVER-LOADED POWER POINTS START FIRES

BE SAFE WITH ELECTRICITY

Electrical circuits

- Over-loading power points with too many adaptors and power boards is dangerous
- Faulty or over-loaded electrical circuits may heat up enough to cause a fire
- If lights dim when you switch on an appliance the circuit is over-loaded
- If the circuit is over-loaded switch off and unplug some of your appliances
- Check your fuses and wiring. Are they the right type and size? If not, have them replaced by a qualified electrician without delay
- If they are the right type and size reduce the number of appliances connected to the circuit



Plugs and cords

- Never run cords under carpets, rugs or furniture because they can overheat and cause a fire
- A damaged plug, cord, connection or insulation can cause a fire – turn it off and then **replace it or have it fixed**

Electric blankets

- Leave electric blankets on the bed all year round – or roll them up for storage as folding them may cause damage to the wiring
- Make sure your electric blanket is laid flat and tied firmly to the bed
- Always switch the blanket off before going to bed or leaving the house
- Sleeping with your electric blanket on is dangerous. Your body weight may cause the blanket to over-heat, damaging the wiring and starting a fire
- Placing heavy objects on your electric blanket can cause spot heating or damage the wiring and start a fire
- Run your hand over the blanket regularly. If you suspect spot overheating, turn it off and have the blanket checked by an authorised repairer or replace it

wired up for safety

Air vents

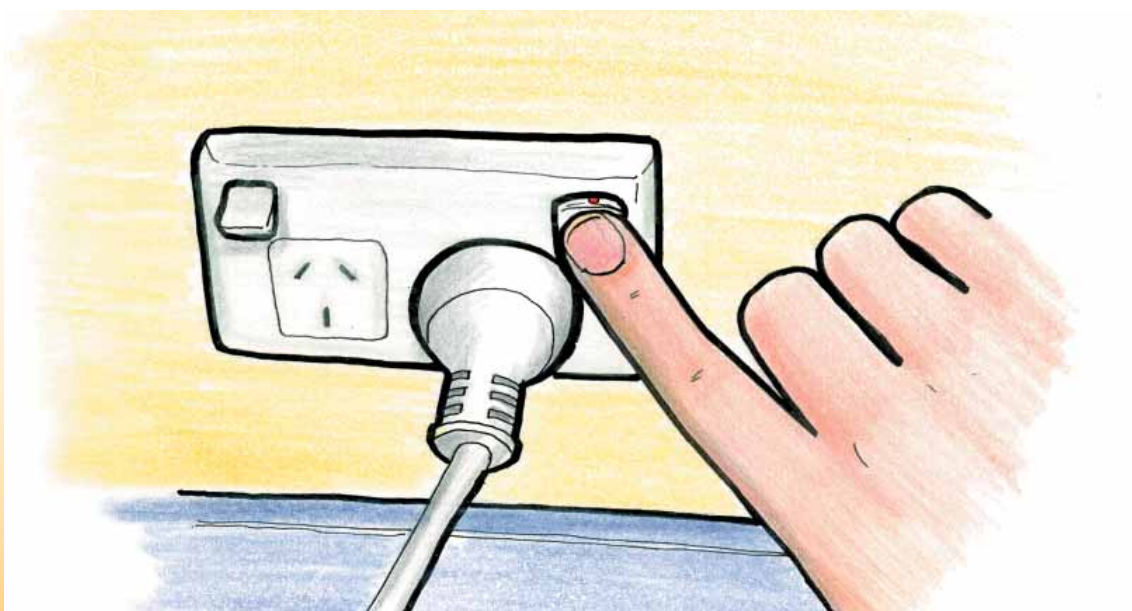
- Keep air vents clear in televisions, videos, stereos and other electrical equipment, as per manufacturers' recommendations
- Blocking air vents can cause over-heating of electrical equipment which can cause damage or start a fire

Over-heating

- If using an electric clothes dryer make sure that the **lint filter** is clean and allow the machine to go through it's **cool down cycle** or **over-heating** can occur resulting in fire
- If an electrical appliance catches fire, switch it off at the power point if safe to do so, or at the fuse box
- If the fire **keeps burning** leave the house and call '000' for help

Further information

For further information on electrical safety contact the Office of Electrical Standards & Safety Telephone: 1300 366 322 or visit www.wst.tas.gov.au



OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Flammable liquids

- NEVER use petrol or kerosene to start your barbecue – it is very dangerous. Children may copy you and be badly burnt
- Store flammable liquids such as petrol, kerosene, methylated spirits, paint and solvents well away from open fires and barbecues

Smoking

- Always use deep-sided ashtrays to prevent cigarettes from falling onto furniture, carpets or other flammable materials
- Store your matches and lighters away from children
- Smoking in bed is very dangerous
- Put cigarettes out properly before getting rid of them
- **Butt Out Safely** – many fires have started from a cigarette falling onto furniture, bedding and other flammable materials

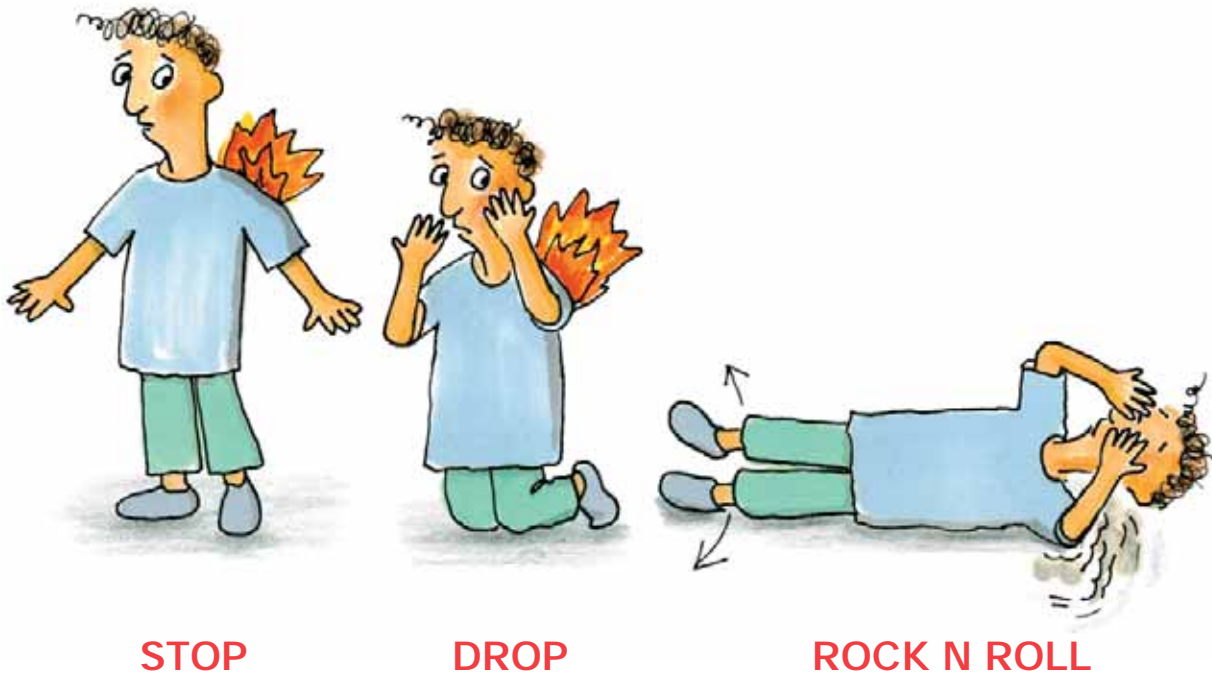


Burning candles and oils

- Open flames in the home can be very dangerous and have started house fires
- **Do not burn** candles, incense or oils close to curtains, papers, bedding and other flammable materials. **That is how fires start**
- Snuff out open flames such as candles, when leaving a room or going to bed

Matches and lighters

- **Matches, lighters and children** are a dangerous combination
- **Children playing with matches or lighters have caused a great many house fires in Tasmania**
- Always store matches and lighters out of your children's sight and out of their reach



LOOKING AFTER THE KIDS

Stop, drop, rock and roll

- Teach your children to Stop, Drop, Rock and Roll in case their clothes catch fire:
 - Stop** – put your hands over your face
 - Drop** – gently drop to the ground
 - Rock n Roll** – rock and roll back and forth on the ground until your clothes stop burning
- This will smother the flames while protecting your face, mouth and lungs from the flames

keep children safe

Dress sense

- Close-fitting clothes made from tightly woven wool and cotton are much safer around fires and heaters than loose-fitting synthetic clothing

Matches and lighters

- Store matches and lighters out of children's sight and out of their reach
- Warn your children that playing with **matches and lighters** is dangerous and forbidden
- Teach your children that matches and lighters are **NOT TOYS for children, but tools for adults only**

Emergency numbers

- Place a list of emergency numbers near the telephone
- Go through the numbers with your children as soon as they are old enough to understand
- Teach your children to dial '000' in an emergency

Home escape plan

- Involve your children in developing a home fire escape plan
- Practice the plan at least twice each year so that you all know exactly what to do in an emergency
- Practice the plan in the dark, crawling low on your hands and knees with the whole family
- Lead children to safety and any other family members who may need help
- **Once out, stay out** – meet other family members at a **safe meeting place**, such as the letterbox
- Reassure children that the safest place for them is outside and that pets can save themselves

keep children safe

Smoke alarms

- Make sure your children know what an alarm sounds like and what to do if it goes off
- Sleeping children are unlikely to wake to an alarm unless it's in their room and they have been taught what the sound of the alarm means

The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program (JFLIP)

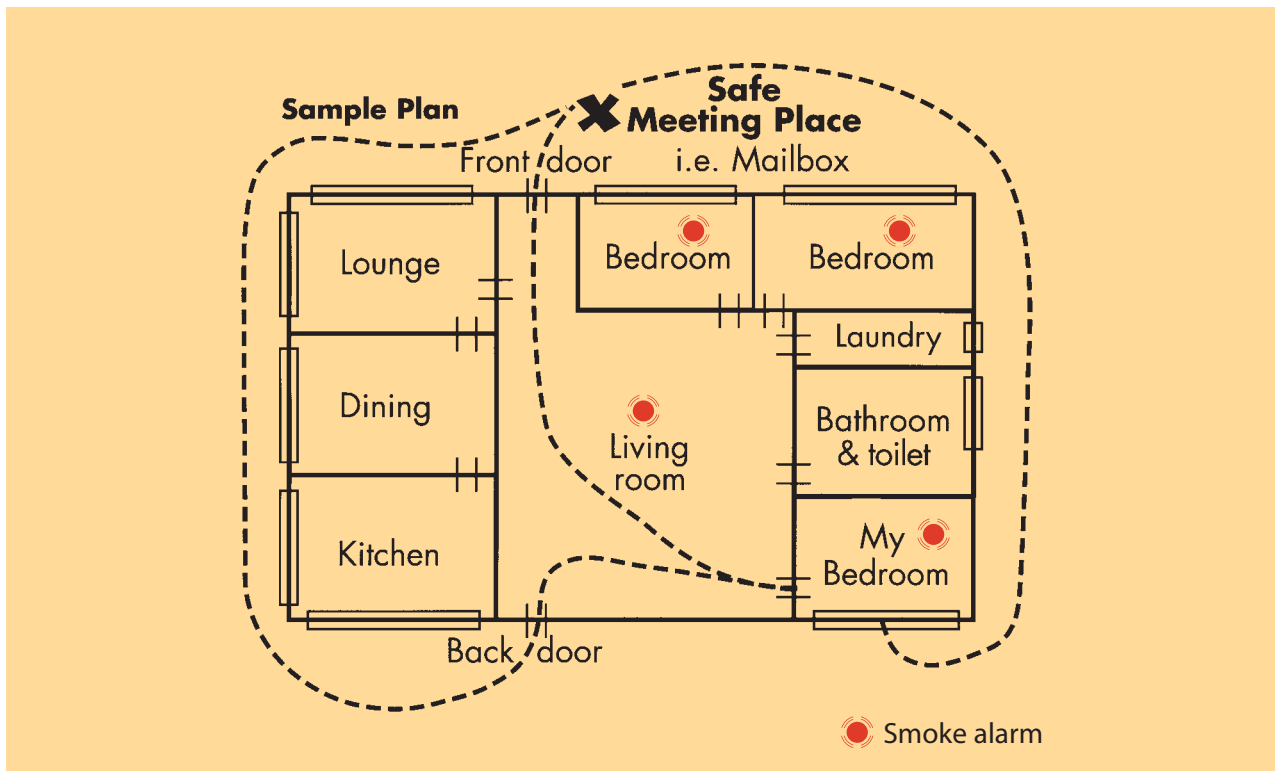
The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program is run by the Tasmania Fire Service to help communities and families deal with the problem of children using fire in an unsafe manner. The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program is free of charge and is delivered state-wide. The aim of the program is to educate and inform children and their families about the dangers and consequences of fire play and increase their awareness of fire safety issues in and around the home.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Tasmania Fire Service Community Education Unit on 1800 000 699



MATCHES ARE NOT TOYS

planning an evacuation



PREPARE AN ESCAPE PLAN

Preparing and practicing an escape plan will increase your chances of staying alive if fire breaks out in your home

Who to involve

- Everyone, including your children living at home, should have a part in planning and practicing an escape plan

The plan

- Draw a map of your house, showing all exits
- On the plan, identify two exits from every room
- Pick a safe meeting place outside the house, such as the letterbox or a neighbour's house

planning an evacuation

Preparation

- Deadlocked doors can block your escape route
- When at home, leave keys in any deadlocks or on a hook (perhaps attached to a chain) near the door
- If there are bedrooms upstairs, store a strong rope ladder there to provide an alternate escape route
- Otherwise, plan a safe escape route across verandahs, balconies and roofs with an alternate route to ground level
- Check that windows, security grills and screens open easily from the inside by any member of your family
- Be prepared to smash a window if necessary to escape
- When going to bed each night, shut all doors to the living room, kitchen and laundry where fires are most likely to start
- Even a lightweight door can slow a fire's progress if it is shut

Practice

- Practice your fire escape plan twice a year with the whole family, in the dark and on your hands and knees
- Lead children to safety and any other family members who may need help
- Reassure children that the safest place for them is outside and that pets can save themselves



CRAWL LOW IN SMOKE



Your escape

Don't panic, don't waste time

- Think calmly. Panic causes confusion and disorientation
- Don't stop to get dressed
- **Crawl Low and Go, Go, Go** – Move quickly to safety
- If you are in the bedroom and fire and smoke is outside that room, make sure the bedroom door is **shut tight**
- Open a window or smash the glass with a piece of furniture or a shoe
- Cover broken glass with bedding to prevent injury
- Climb onto furniture to escape through the window

Crawl low in smoke

- Avoid crawling through smoke filled rooms. If you must go through them **stay close to the floor – that is where the fresh air is**, toxic smoke and super-heated air rises to the ceiling

how to survive a fire

Don't enter burning rooms

- Feel every door with the back of your hand before opening it
- If it is hot or there is smoke seeping around the edges, do not open it
- Find another exit such as through a window

Open doors carefully

- If the door is **not** hot or there is **no** smoke seeping around the edges of the door, open the door and:
 - stay low just in case there is fire or smoke on the other side
 - turn your head away from the door and open it slowly and carefully, and
 - close all doors behind you on your way out to slow the spread of the fire

Surviving burns

- If your clothes catch fire Stop, Drop, Rock and Roll
 - Stop** – put your hands over your face
 - Drop** – gently drop to the ground
 - Rock n Roll** – rock and roll back and forth on the ground until your clothes stop burning
- This will smother the flames while protecting your face, mouth and lungs from the flames

Relieving burns

- Run cold water over any burns for at least 10 minutes
- **Do not** use butter, ice or ointments to cool burns, and do not cover burns with cotton wool
- **Do not take off burnt clothes**
Burnt clothes should only be removed by medical staff



fire safety in your home



SMOKE ALARMS

A smoke alarm will alert you to a fire even if you are asleep and give you valuable time to escape.

Alarm locations

- You should install a smoke alarm in each bedroom, hallway and living room
- In two storey homes install smoke alarms at the tops of stairs
- Check that your smoke alarms are approved by Australian Standards
- The best plan is to have inter-connected hard wired (240V) smoke alarms in parents' and children's bedrooms, so that when one alarm detects smoke all alarms go off, alerting people throughout the house
- Sleeping children are unlikely to wake to an alarm unless it's in their room and they have been taught what the sound of the alarm means
- Install alarms in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines

fire safety in your home

Maintaining alarms

- Test alarms monthly by pressing and holding the test button
- Change the battery at least once a year – make a habit of changing the battery at the end of daylight savings in March – **use a long life alkaline battery**
- Clean alarms regularly with the fine nozzle on your vacuum cleaner
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years

Type of alarms

There are two main types of alarms used in homes, photo-electric and ionisation alarms.

- **Fire Services recommend that all homes be fitted with Australian Standards-approved photo-electric smoke alarms.**
- Photo-electric smoke alarms provide more effective all-round detection and alarm than ionisation alarms.

If you currently have ionisation smoke alarms in your home don't remove them, they're saved hundreds of lives in Australia over 30 years. Instead we encourage you to consider installing photo-electric smoke alarms as well. Photo-electric smoke alarms will increase the likelihood of surviving a house fire.

Special alarm features

The following features are available with many models:

- Inter-connectable – if one alarm goes off, all inter-connected alarms will also sound the alarm
- Emergency lighting, to aid your evacuation
- Strobes and vibrating alerts, specially designed for the Deaf and hearing impaired
- Powered by mains electricity (240V), with a battery back-up



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Dry Chemical Powder (DCP) fire extinguishers

This type of extinguisher is suitable for most household fires

- Choose an extinguisher that is approved by Australian Standards
- A one kilogram DCP extinguisher will last about 10 seconds
- This type of extinguisher is effective against most small fires
- Regularly check the pressure gauge to ensure correct pressure
- Turn it upside down and shake it occasionally to prevent the powder from settling
- Have the extinguisher serviced every six months and pressure tested every six years by a qualified person
- After it has been used, refill your extinguisher as soon as possible



Fire blankets

A fire blanket is ideal for stove-top fires and can be used to wrap around people if their clothes catch fire

- Your fire blankets should be Australian Standards approved
- Your fire blanket should measure not less than 1 metre by 1 metre
- Your fire blanket should be installed in or close to the kitchen
- If you need to use your fire blanket, carefully place the fire blanket over the fire, keeping hands and face protected behind the blanket
- Turn off the heat source and leave the blanket over the burning object for at least 15 minutes or until it cools down



instructions for preparing a family escape plan

Who to Involve

- Everyone, including your children living at home, should have a part in planning and practicing an escape plan.

The Plan

- Draw a plan of your house on the attached grid, showing all exits, including windows.
- On the plan show two ways out of every room.
- Pick a safe meeting place in front of your house where the family will meet, such as the letterbox or a neighbour's house, and mark this on the plan.
- Detach the plan from this booklet, along the perforated edge, and place it on the fridge and ensure everyone knows what to do.

Preparation

- Deadlocked doors can block your escape route.
- When at home, leave keys in any deadlocks or on a hook (perhaps attached to a chain) near the door.
- If you live in a house with more than one level, store strong rope ladders in the upstairs rooms to provide an alternative escape route.
- Otherwise, plan a safe escape route across verandahs, balconies and roofs with an alternate route to ground level.
- Check that windows, security grills and screens open quickly and easily from the inside by any member of your family.
- Family members should practice opening their windows to become familiar with their operation. Jammed windows should be identified and repaired.
- When going to bed each night, shut all doors to the living room, kitchen and laundry, where fires are most likely to start.

Practice your Escape Plan

- Practice your fire escape plan twice a year with the whole family, in the dark and on your hands and knees.
- Lead children to safety, and any other family members who may need help.
- Reassure children that the safest place for them is outside and that pets can save themselves.
- Count all family members at your meeting place. If someone is missing, tell the fire fighters where that person may be. NEVER go back inside.

Escaping from Fire

If a fire breaks out in your home remember the following tips:

- Check the door with the back of your hand – if you feel heat, use your second exit.
- Lead children to safety, and any other family members who may need help.
- If there is smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest exit.
- Call the Tasmania Fire Service on **000**.
- Once out, stay out. Never go back inside.

checklist

Ask yourself these questions and decide whether you are really protecting yourself, your family and your home. Think about some of the changes you may need to make to be fire safe.

YES

Is the Emergency phone number (000) written on your telephone?

Do you have working smoke alarms installed in the right areas?

Do you dust and vacuum your smoke alarms regularly?

Do you have a home fire escape plan?

Do you practice the plan regularly?

Is your plan displayed where everyone can see it?

If you have security doors or windows, are the keys left in or next to the locks when you are in the house?

Do you stay in the kitchen when cooking?

Do you keep clothing and furnishings away from heaters?

Do you have a fire blanket and extinguisher in your home, and check them regularly?

Can you quickly locate your nearest fire fighting equipment if required?

Do you regularly check your appliances and power leads for any malfunctions or damage?

Do you regularly check your electric blanket?

Do you switch off electrical equipment at night before going to bed?

Do you remove flammable materials such as extra paper or chemicals from your home?

only working
smoke alarms
save lives.

That's all it takes.

For further information on fire safety
call **1800 000 699**
or visit the website: **www.fire.tas.gov.au**
in an emergency dial **000**



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