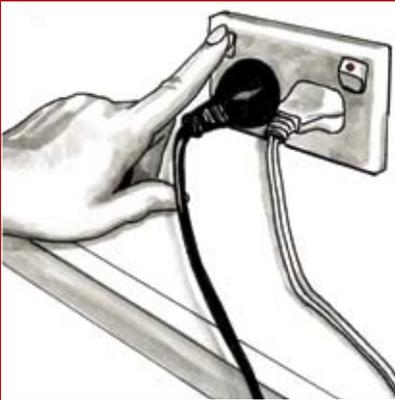


house fire prevent and survive



property can be replaced, **lives can't!**



EMERGENCY



Tasmania Fire Service
www.fire.tas.gov.au

introduction

The Tasmania Fire Service responds to over 400 house fires each year. Tasmania has the highest fire fatality rate per capita in Australia.

Don't become a statistic. Don't let this be you!

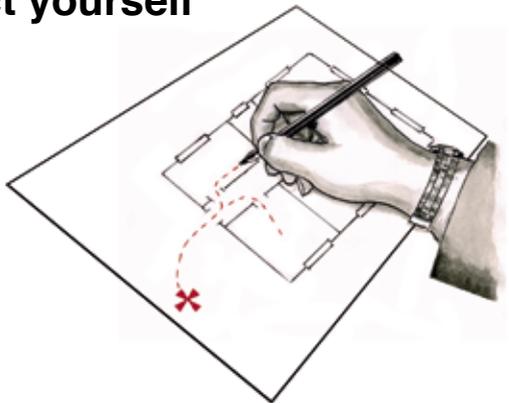
Read this booklet! It could save your life!

where are the **danger hot spots**?

- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Heating
- Laundry
- Electrical

how can you **protect yourself and your family**?

- Smoke Alarms
- Home fire escape plan
- Security
- Checklist
- Emergency calls



kitchen

kitchen

1. **Never** leave cooking unattended - Turn it off before you turn away!
2. **Don't** let fats and oils build up around the stove, they are a fire hazard
3. **Never** use water, flour or salt to put out an oil or fat fire on the stove
4. **Use** a lid or fire blanket to smother a fire in a pot or pan
5. **Never** try to carry a burning pot or pan
6. **Don't** hang objects over oven door handles eg. tea towels
7. **Store** flammable materials away from the stove
8. **Check** electrical equipment to make sure it is clean and in good condition
9. **Wear** clothing with tight fitting sleeves when cooking
10. **Leave** immediately if your home catches fire -
Stay out and call '000' for help.



turn off before you turn away

bedroom

bedroom

Electric Blankets

1. Leave your blanket on the bed, **never fold** for storage as it may cause damage to the wiring
2. Make sure your blanket is **flat and tied firmly** to the bed
3. **Never sleep** with your electric blanket turned on
4. **Don't** leave your electric blanket turned on when you are not at home
5. Run your hands over the blanket periodically and if you find **any hot spots** turn the blanket off and have it checked
6. **Do not** place heavy objects on your electric blanket.



**turn off your
electric blanket**

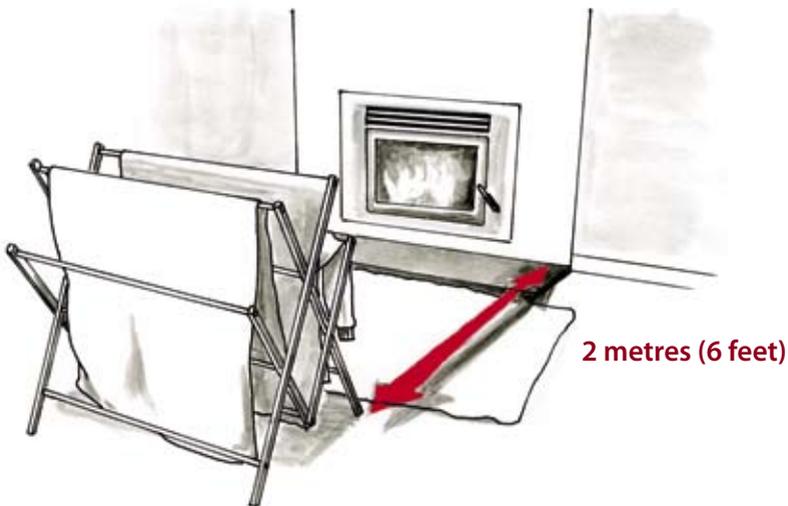
General

1. **Don't** smoke in bed
2. **Program '000'** into your phone in the bedroom
3. **Fit** bedside lamps with a globe of 60 watts or less
4. **Never** leave burning candles unattended.

heating

heating

1. **Don't** place clothing too close to heaters - it should be at least two metres (six feet) from any source of heat
2. **Never** leave clothes near the heater if leaving the house or going to bed
3. **Check** clothing regularly if drying near a heater
4. **Use** fire screens at all times with open fires
5. **Don't** sit too close to the heaters
6. **Clean** and maintain chimneys and heater flues yearly
7. **Maintain** heaters according to manufacturers' instructions
8. **Don't** leave your heater door open or remove screen on open fires.

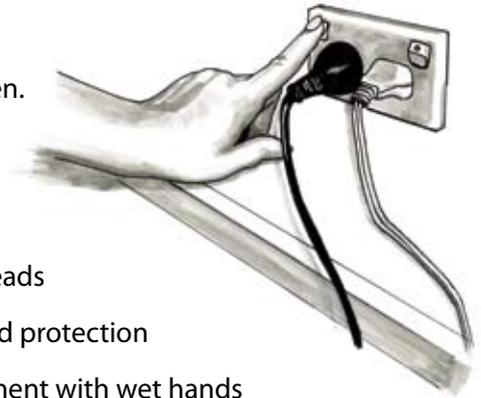


laundry/electrical

laundry

1. **Clean** dryer filters **before** every use
2. **Ventilate** dryers adequately
3. **Allow** dryers to complete their cool down cycle
4. **Label** flammable liquids and poisons clearly and keep in correct containers
5. **Store** poisons and flammable liquids safely away from children.

**turn power
points off when
not using**



electrical

1. **Don't** overload power points
2. **Replace** damaged plugs and leads
3. **Use** powerboards with overload protection
4. **Never** handle electrical equipment with wet hands
5. **Turn off and unplug** appliances when not in use
6. **Don't** use faulty electrical equipment until it has been repaired
7. **Don't** place extension leads under carpets or furniture
8. **Install** a circuit breaker
9. **Check** electrical wiring and switches regularly, **especially** in older homes. This must be done by an authorised tradesperson.

smoke alarm/plan

smoke alarm

1. You should **install** a photoelectric smoke alarm in each bedroom, hallway and living area
2. **Test** alarms monthly
3. **Vacuum** dust from alarms every 6 months
4. **Replace** batteries once a year
5. **Smoke alarms** should be supported by a home fire escape plan.



home fire **escape plan**

1. Make a **home fire escape plan** and **practise** at least twice a year
2. **Crawl low** if caught in smoke
3. **Use windows** as an alternative means of escape
4. **Cover** broken glass with a blanket or doona
5. **Once out, stay out** at a safe, designated meeting place outside your home (e.g. next to your letterbox)
6. **If clothes catch fire**, stop, put your hands over your face, gently drop to the ground and rock and roll on the ground until your clothes stop burning.

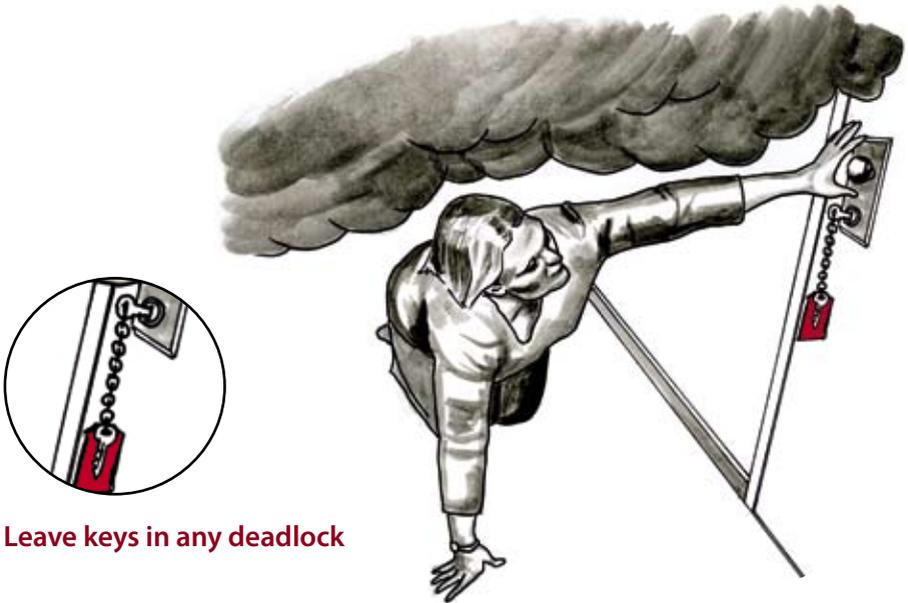
security

security

The best fire escape plan is worthless if your escape route is blocked.

While deadlocks and security grilles are a worthwhile deterrent to thieves, they can be deadly in a fire. When you are in the house:

1. **Leave keys** in any deadlock, or on a hook (preferably attached to a chain) close to the door or window, but out of reach of intruders
2. **Ensure** that window security grilles and screens open **readily** from the inside
3. **Ensure** all windows and doors **open easily** for all members of your family.



Leave keys in any deadlock

smoking/checklist

smoking

If you are a smoker please remember:

1. **Store** matches and lighters out of children's sight and out of their reach
2. **Don't** smoke in bed
3. **Extinguish completely** cigarettes before discarding
4. **Throw out** discarded cigarette butts properly, as many fires have been started from a cigarette falling onto furniture, bedding and other flammable materials
5. **Use** only deep-sided ash trays.

checklist

- Is the emergency phone number '000' written on your telephone?
- Do you have working smoke alarms installed in the appropriate areas?
- Do you have a home fire escape plan?
- Do you practise the plan regularly?
- 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 remain in the kitchen when cooking?

emergency calls

emergency calls

- **Ring '000'**
- Say which emergency service you require, e.g. fire brigade
- When asked give your:
 - State you live in**
 - Street number**
 - Street name**
 - Suburb**
 - Nearest cross street**
- **Don't delay your escape** to call emergency services. Never put yourself in danger. **Get out, stay out** and ring from a neighbour's phone.

**Phone Tasmania Fire Service Community Education for
further information on your home fire safety needs**

1800 000 699

or visit our website at www.fire.tas.gov.au

only working
smoke alarms
save lives.
That's all it takes.

1800 000 699
www.fire.tas.gov.au



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