



Many of the house fires that occur in NSW each year are preventable. The key to reducing the danger of fire in your home is to learn about fire safety and stay alert to the risks.

Keeping your home fire safe

Fire and Rescue NSW recommend regular safety checks to ensure your home is fire safe. Many of the following tips are simple and can become a part of your daily routine.

- Never smoke in bed.
- Check electric blankets for damage (including frayed cords) and replace old ones regularly.
- Always turn off electric blankets before getting into bed.
- Keep curtains, clothing, tablecloths and bedding away from heaters and candles.
- If you use a clothes dryer, clean the lint filter each time you use it.
- Only use one appliance for every power point and switch off appliances when they are not being used.
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed or leaving a room.
- Store matches and lighters in a secure place away from young children.
- Test any smoke alarms every month by pressing and holding the button until it beeps. If your alarm does not beep, call us on **13 14 21**. Choose 1 when provided with automated phone menu options.

Be prepared in case of a fire

Disaster preparedness is important—not just for your safety, but for the safety of any family or loved ones living with you.

- Talk to your family, including your children, about what to do if there is fire.
- Point out where the smoke alarm is and explain what it does.
- Develop a home escape plan, including a meeting place and two ways to get out of each room.
- Discuss and practice the plan with everyone in the household.
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are easy to access.
- If you or someone who lives with you is hearing impaired, make sure you have a strobe light connected to your smoke alarm.

What to do in case of fire

In the event of a fire, don't panic. Follow these rules, which should also be covered as part of your fire preparation work.

- Do not attempt to fight a fire.
- Escape as quickly as possible and phone 000.
- Do not go back inside to save possessions.
- If there is smoke, cover your nose and mouth with a cloth and stay close to the floor.
- If a fire starts in your home or unit, leave immediately and close the front door firmly. Use the nearest stairs to reach ground level. Never use a lift if there is a fire.
- If a fire starts in another unit, or in a common area, leave the building if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe to leave, phone 000 and tell them your location. Stay in your unit and close your doors and windows to keep the smoke out.
- Heavy sleepers, such as children and those affected by alcohol and drugs, may not hear the alarm so you might need to offer assistance.
- If a family member has a hearing or mobility problem, assign someone to help them.



Kitchen Fire Safety

Whether you cook with gas or electricity, it's important to be aware of common hazards in the kitchen. The safe and tidy habits listed below help to reduce your fire risk.

- "Keep Looking While Cooking". Don't leave your cooking unattended. Turn off the hotplate if you have to leave the kitchen.
- Heat cooking oil carefully and slowly in the right size saucepan to avoid fat splatters.
- Turn pot and pan handles inwards so they won't be knocked over.
- Clean your stove and/or grill after each use. Clean the range hood filter and all kitchen appliances regularly.
- If cooking oil catches fire, turn off the hotplate and slide the lid over the pan or use the fire blanket to smother the fire.
- Ensure that all cooking appliances are turned off after use. When using the oven, always set the timer.
- Don't keep your tea towels, oven mitts and other flammable items near the stove or cooktop.
- Don't use water to put out fat and oil fires. Water can cause the fire to spread rapidly and cause horrific burns.
- Don't carry pans of hot or burning oil through the house as this may spread the fire and cause serious injury.
- Always follow manufacturer's instructions when using cooking appliances. Do not heat non-approved items in the microwave

Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings

If you live in one of our larger apartment buildings, please note these extra tips to ensure you are reacting safely to a fire.

- Know where the fire hose reels and portable fire extinguishers are and know how to use them.
- Take note of exit points, which are clearly identifiable by an illuminated green and white exit sign.
- Familiarise yourself with exit points in your building and where they lead to.
- Never use a lift in the case of fire. Lifts are not smoke or fire resistant.
- Fire stairs provide a safe environment that will lead you to a safe place away from the building. Never block open any fire stair doors as this will cause smoke and heat to enter the fire stairs.
- Fire stair doors and external apartment doors are designed to self close every time. Report any problems with these doors to us immediately.

Link Wentworth conducts annual smoke alarm inspections in our high rise buildings. It is important you report any problems immediately through to us on **13 14 21**.

If you need more information, please contact Link Wentworth on **13 14 21** or email enquiries@linkwentworth.org.au

Do you need a translator?

TIS National provides access to phone and on-site interpreting services in over 150 languages.

Call **13 14 50**.