

# IN YOUR HOME... YOU ARE THE FIRE WARDEN

**Are you prepared for the risk of a home fire?  
Use this checklist to find out.**

## **HEATERS AND OTHER APPLIANCES**

- Before every winter** I have chimneys and flues cleaned
- I make sure all heaters** are installed, maintained and operated according to manufacturer's instructions
- Fire screens** are always placed in front of open fires and heaters in my home
- I place items that could catch fire**, like clothing and curtains, at least one metre away from heaters
- My children are supervised** near all types of heating
- All portable heating is turned off** and open fires extinguished before I go to bed or leave the house
- My appliances are in good working order** (using damaged electrical equipment and appliances can result in a fire)
- There are no** overloaded power boards and I have replaced damaged equipment
- The lint filter** in my clothes dryer is cleaned after each use

## **IN THE KITCHEN**

- Cooking is never left unattended** and is turned off when I leave the room
- I keep curtains and tea towels** well away from the toaster and stove
- I turn pot handles** inward so they can't be knocked over
- My children are supervised** in the kitchen and kept away from the stove top and the oven



## IN THE BEDROOM

- I never smoke in bed** as it is extremely dangerous
- Electric blankets** are turned on, no more than 30 minutes before getting into bed and are turned off, once I am in bed
- Heavy items** (including pets) are removed from my bed when the electric blanket is turned on
- Smoke alarms** are installed inside every bedroom in my home where someone sleeps with the door closed

## SMOKE ALARMS

- At least one** smoke alarm is on each level of my home
- I have vacuumed smoke alarms** at least once this year to keep vents clean
- My smoke alarm batteries** were changed this year at the end of daylight saving
- My smoke alarms have been tested** this month (a broom handle can be used to reach the test button)
- If my smoke alarm beeps intermittently** I replace the battery immediately (as it is going flat)
- I will replace any smoke alarm** (including those connected to mains electricity) that is ten years old to make sure it's working properly
- I'm aware** that all Australian Fire Services recommend photoelectric smoke alarms

## BE PREPARED

- My home fire escape plan** has been developed and practised
  - I know at least two ways** to get out of the house if there is a fire
  - The keys are kept in my deadlock** and I never deadlock myself inside
  - A safe meeting point** has been designated outside my home (e.g. the letterbox)
- I keep matches and lighters** out of reach of children
- I know** how to use my fire blanket and extinguisher

**KEEP FIRE OUT OF YOUR  
HOME THIS WINTER.  
BE VIGILANT.**

For further home fire safety tips visit  
[www.homefiresafety.com.au](http://www.homefiresafety.com.au)

