



# **FIRE** **SAFETY** **IN YOUR** **HOME**

# Fire Safety in Your Home

A fire in your home can be devastating, even fatal. It can take just seconds for a fire to take hold. Most home fires are preventable. You can reduce your risk and improve your safety by taking these 10 steps.





# 01 Smoke Alarms

Only working smoke alarms save lives. If yours isn't working properly it can't warn you and your family if there's a fire in your home.

To ensure your smoke alarms are working properly, follow these simple steps:

- Test your smoke alarm regularly by holding down the test button until you hear a loud alert tone, then release. We suggest you test your smoke alarms once a month
- Replace your batteries every year. (Mains powered smoke alarms have back-up batteries that may need replacing. Check the manufacturer's instructions)
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years, regardless of the type of smoke alarm you have.



## Did you know?

Mains powered smoke alarms are required in all residential homes:

- Newly built or renovated since 1 July 1997
- Sold after 1 October 2009
- Made available for rent or hire.

**Spend a few minutes with your family and draw up an escape plan. Practice it regularly or at least once a year.**

Your escape plan should include:

- More than one way out of every room, including windows where possible
- A safe and easy escape route for family members with special needs
- An escape route for your pets
- A safe meeting place for everyone outside.

**02**

## **Home Fire Escape Plan**



# 03

## Extinguishers & Fire Blankets

Fire blankets and extinguishers can be used to put out small fires in the home.

A dry powder fire extinguisher is the most common type used in homes. Using the wrong type of extinguisher can be dangerous. Before installing a fire extinguisher in your home, check which one would be best for you by visiting the DFES website at [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au).

Keep fire blankets in the kitchen where they can be easily reached.

We suggest a fire blanket of at least 1 metre by 1 metre.

Check that the fire blanket packaging and fire extinguisher carry the Australian Standards mark.



# 04 Kitchen Fires





**Most house fires start in the kitchen. Stay safe when cooking by following these simple steps:**

- Don't leave food unattended on the stove
- Never hang items such as tea towels near stoves or on cooking appliances.

**If oil or fat does catch alight when cooking:**

- Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so
- Cover the fire with a lid, wooden chopping board or fire blanket
- Never move a flaming pot or pan, as this will spread the fire quickly. You may also end up with life threatening burn injuries
- Never use water to put out a fat fire. This will cause the burning oil to explode and the fire to spread.



**If you can't extinguish the fire, dial Triple Zero (000) and put your escape plan into action.**

# 05

## Cigarettes, Lighters & Matches

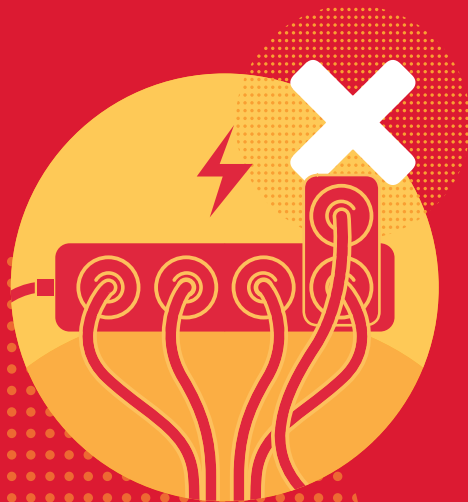


**The next biggest cause of house fires is from smoking materials. Make sure you:**

- Never leave lit cigarettes unattended
- Don't smoke in bed
- Use ashtrays and extinguish cigarette butts completely
- Never leave children unattended around cigarette lighters or matches
- Be careful when smoking and drinking alcohol as you are at greater risk of falling sleep.



# 06 Home Electrical & Heating Appliances

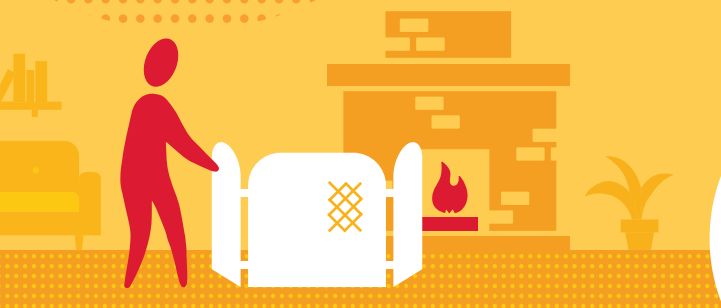


Home heating is a major cause of house fires in winter.

- Only use appliances that meet approved Australian standards and have them installed by a qualified fitter
- Check your appliances once a year. Worn out electrical cords or plugs should be replaced immediately
- Always plug appliances directly into permanent power points and never overload power points with double adaptors
- Never leave children unsupervised near heating appliances
- Make sure all items are at least a metre from the heater.

# 07

## Open Fires, Flues & Chimneys



**These simple steps can keep your family and home safe:**

- Check the fireplace, brickwork, chimney and flue before lighting the first fire of the year
- Check that the flue has a double or triple protective skin to stop radiant heat igniting the insulation or timbers in the roof
- Never use combustible liquids (petrol, lighter fluid, etc) to light open fires
- Always guard your open fire place with a fine mesh screen
- Make sure you extinguish all flames and embers completely before going to bed or leaving the house
- Never leave children unsupervised near open fires
- Make sure all items are at least a metre from the heater.

# 08 Candles & Oil Burners

**Candles and oil burners are often responsible for starting house fires. To prevent this:**

- Don't place candles in windows. They can be blown over causing blinds and curtains to catch alight
- Etinguish candles and oil burners before going to bed or leaving the house
- Never leaving children unattended with candles and oil burners.





# 09 Responding to a Fire in Your Home

If a fire does start in your home and you can't put it out safely, follow these steps:

- Contain the fire and slow it from spreading by closing the door to the room if possible
- Alert and assist other people in the house to leave if it is safe to do so
- Keep down low and close to the floor to avoid breathing in smoke
- Put your escape plan into action
- Before you open a closed door, feel it with the back of your hand. If it's hot use another way to get out
- Leave your home and head to the safe place agreed on your plan, such as your letterbox
- Dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and alert your neighbours as necessary
- Remember, never go back into a burning house under any circumstances.

# 10 Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll

If a person's clothing catches on fire, they should:



Stop immediately. Running will fan the flames.



Drop to the ground.



Cover their face with their hands to avoid breathing in flames and smoke.



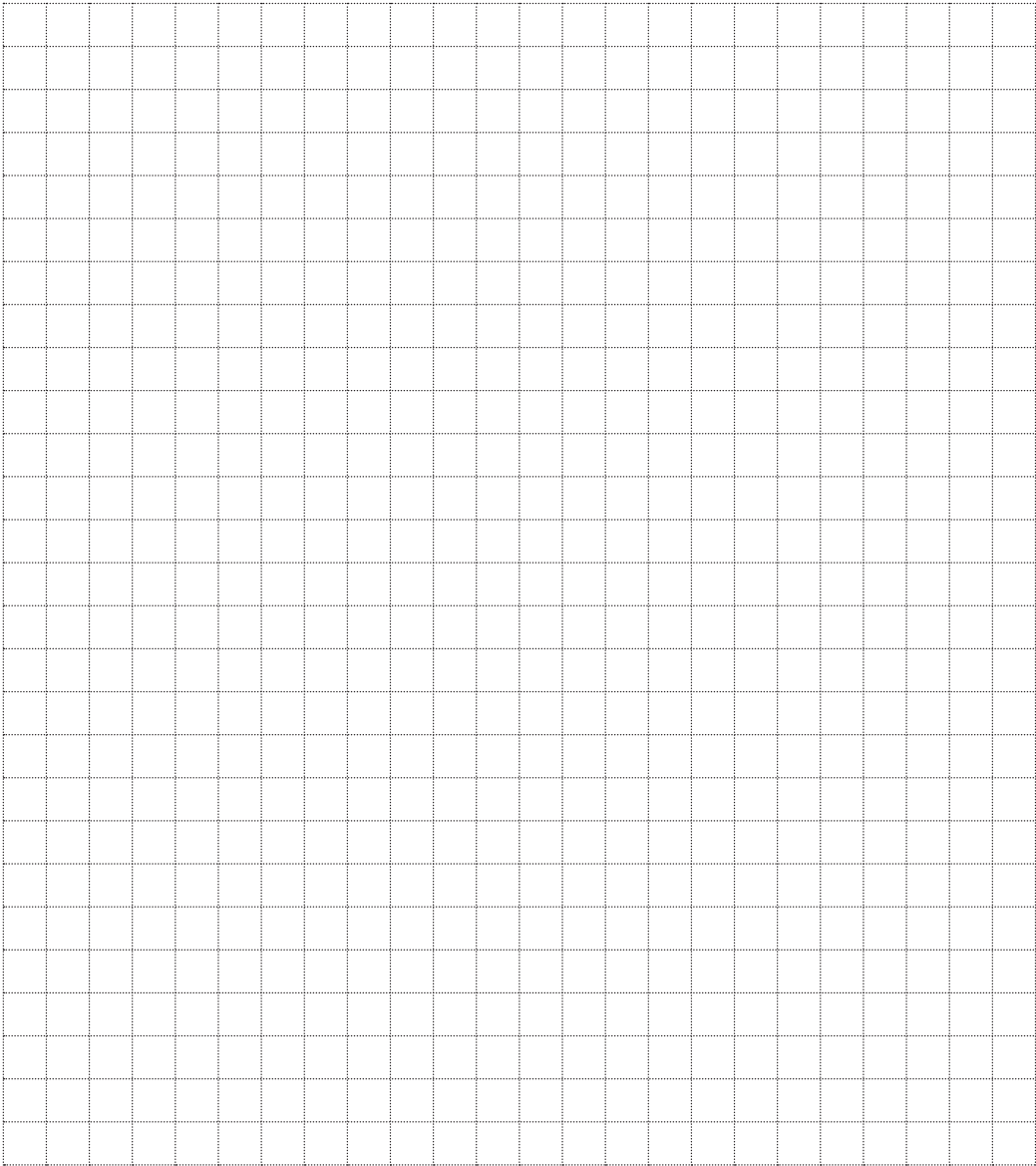
Roll back and forth on the ground to extinguish the flames.



To assist a person with burning clothing, roll them back and forth on the ground or smother the flames with a fire blanket.

# Home Fire Escape Plan

Use this space to draw your home floor plan, showing your exits. Decide on two ways out of every room and a meeting place outside your home (such as a letter box). The symbols on the right will help you map out your plan. Practise your plan regularly.



Draw these symbols



Smoke  
alarm



Door location/  
window keys



Fire  
extinguisher



Fire  
blanket



Escape  
routes



Meeting  
Place

# FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

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