

## FACT SHEET

### Smoke Alarms

Install and maintain your photoelectric smoke alarms. Do you have an adequate number of photoelectric smoke alarms throughout your home? Have you checked the batteries and tested the alarm? Make sure it's in working order.

### Escape Plan

Develop a home fire escape plan and practise it with all the members of your household. If you use deadlocks, keep the keys in a location known to all occupants. Assemble at your meeting point e.g. letterbox, and call the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service on Triple Zero (000). NEVER go back into a burning house.

### Cooking

Keep an eye on your cooking. Never leave cooking unattended. Cooking fires are the most common cause of residential fires. Have an extinguisher or fire blanket installed ready for use in an accessible position, close to the kitchen exit.

### Clothes Dryers

Regularly clean your clothes dryer. Clean the lint out from the filter/s in the dryer. Do not leave the home or go to sleep with the clothes dryer on. Always make sure that the clothes dryer goes through the full drying cycle, which includes the cool down stage.

### Electrical

Check and test electrical appliances that have been stored for long periods of time and also frequently used appliances. Do not use any electrical appliance if the cords are frayed or worn. Avoid overloading power boards with electrical appliances.

### Fireplace

Screen and clean your open fireplace. If you have a fireplace, ensure fire screens are always in position. All solid fuel heaters should have chimneys cleaned annually.

### Low Fire Danger Clothing

When purchasing clothing for children, such as pyjamas, look for LOW FIRE DANGER labels. Consider buying clothing which is close fitting. Wool offers a higher degree of fire resistance than synthetic materials.

### Open Flames

Take care with your candles, matches and lighters. Use candles and open flames with care. Always extinguish open flames before going to bed or leaving the home. Store matches and lighters in a secure place not accessible to children. Ensure cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Never smoke in bed.

### Heaters

Keep a clear space of one metre around your heater. Portable heaters should always be placed in a stable position, a safe distance away from bedding, clothing, curtains and tablecloths.

### Air Conditioners

Clean filters regularly and check that small lizards (e.g. geckos) are not getting into the head unit and residing therein.

### Wheat Bags

If wheat bags are overheated and insulated (e.g. in bedding), the excess heat cannot dissipate which may result in spontaneous combustion of the wheat grains which may take several hours to reach flaming combustion.

### Electric Blankets

Never go to sleep with an electric blanket on. Electric blankets may cause fires in a bed if there are faults or breaks in the fine wires inside the blanket. These breaks can be caused from storing the electric blanket in a tightly folded manner in a cupboard over the summer months.

