

FIRE SAFETY FOR CARAVANS AND MOTORHOMES

Make your next trip fire safe by following these steps:

Gas cylinders

- » Turn off all gas cylinders while the caravan is being towed or the mobile home engine is on.
- » Keep gas cylinders outside unless a properly designed storage cupboard has been fitted.
- » Turn off all appliances not being used before going to bed.
- » Gas cylinders, pipes and fittings should be checked regularly, particularly after driving on country roads.

Escape plan

- » Prepare an escape plan in case of emergencies.
- » Make sure you know where escape windows and hatches are and how they work - keep them and all doors clear of obstructions.

Cooking

- » Never leave cooking unattended.

Storage

- » Store all clothes and bedclothes well away from the kitchen area.
- » Store all flammable liquids outside the caravan or mobile home.
- » Ensure that the extension lead for connecting electricity supply to your caravan or motor home is in good condition and of suitable size for the current load. Damaged cords must be replaced immediately.

Smoke alarms

- » Fit photoelectric smoke alarms with a hush button. Caravan specific ones are available from hardware stores. A hush button will silence the alarm for a short period of time allowing the air to clear. Battery powered photoelectric smoke alarms can be installed by anyone with home handy person skills.

Other fire safety equipment

- » Ensure you have a fire extinguisher and fire blanket. The extinguishers and fire blankets should be located near an exit where they are easily accessible and where escape is also an option.
- » Make sure fire extinguishers are charged, inspected and regularly serviced.
- » Check electrical appliances for frayed cords and any other visible damage, and dispose of appropriately.
- » Test the safety switch before each trip.

Smoke alarm requirements

From 1 July 2024, all registered caravans or motorhomes whose registration is commencing or being transferred must have a photoelectric smoke alarm installed on the ceiling.

From 1 July 2027, all other registered caravans and motorhomes must have a photoelectric smoke alarm installed.

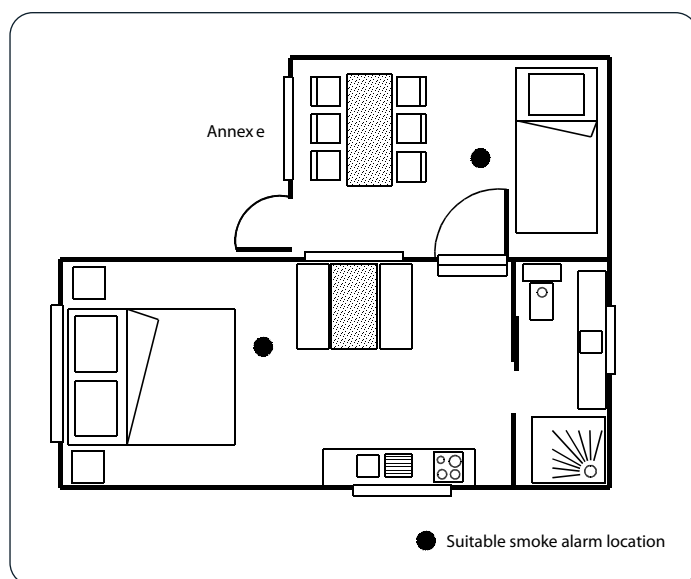
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) recommends unregistered caravans and motorhomes, as well as mobile homes, have a working smoke alarm installed to give occupants early warning of fire.

Where do smoke alarms need to go?

Under the law, a newly registered or transferred caravan or motorhome is required to have a smoke alarm on the ceiling. The smoke alarm must be powered by a 10-year non-removable battery.

QFES recommends placing at least one working photoelectric smoke alarm inside the van where the bed is, and one in the annexe if you sleep there.

The smoke alarm should meet Australian Standard 3786-2014. You can buy smoke alarms from most hardware stores, large supermarkets, electrical suppliers and a variety of retail stores.



For more information or advice visit qfes.qld.gov.au.