

# FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

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Every year **more than 1,000 fires occur in the home** causing millions of dollars damage and costing people their lives. Most deaths occur from smoke and toxic fumes. Sadly, most household fires are accidental and preventable.

Winter sees an increase in fires in the home, often due to an increased need for heating appliances. It is important to be vigilant around your home, particular throughout the winter months.

### WHEN HEATING YOUR HOME

- ALWAYS make sure all items are AT LEAST A METRE FROM THE HEATER
- Never leave heaters on in bedrooms, especially children's
- Heaters should be checked once a year to make sure they are in working order, worn out electrical cords and plugs should be replaced immediately
- Check your heater, fireplace brickwork, chimney and flue before lighting the first fire of the year to make sure it is clean



### FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Switch off all kitchen appliances after use
- Avoid wearing loose clothing with big sleeves when cooking as they can catch fire
- Never hang items such as tea towels near stoves or on cooking appliances

#### IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

- Crawl low under smoke
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box
- Call **000** (triple zero)
- Wait for firefighters to arrive
- Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances.

If a fire does start in your home you need to be able to escape as quickly and safely as possible. Having working **Smoke Alarms** and a **Home Fire Escape Plan** will increase your chances of getting out of your house safely.

### HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Know two ways out of every room
- Decide where your safe meeting place is (outside your home)
- Keep keys in deadlocks to escape quickly in the event of a fire
- Provide alternatives for anyone with a disability
- Consider an escape plan for your pets
- Practise your plan with your family at least twice a year

For more information visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**

