

HOME FIRE SAFETY

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET



Fire and Rescue NSW attend to around 4,500 house fires each year. Of these, approximately 1,000 are caused by unattended heat sources such as foodstuffs on stoves and by electrical short circuits. The areas of the house where most fires occur are the kitchen (2,150) sleeping areas (490) and lounge area (315).

KEEPING YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE?

As a landlord, Southern Cross Housing is required to demonstrate that each smoke alarm is tested and working. The tests take place every 12 months.

Prior to your smoke alarm being tested you will receive a letter and SMS reminder from Southern Cross Housing. If you are not at the property at the time of a scheduled inspection we may gain entry to your property without your consent to test the smoke alarms.

It is important that you let us know if you are unable to be home during a scheduled inspection time. Please advise your Housing Officer on 1300 757 885 if you are unable to be home.

IN AN EMERGENCY

Call Triple Zero (000)

Please use the following checklist to help keep you and your home, fire safe.

- ✓ Ensure that your smoke alarms are in working order and if not please contact your Housing Officer.
- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended.
- ✓ Make sure keys to all locked doors are readily accessible in case you need to escape.
- ✓ Never leave any open flame including candles or oil burners unattended.
- ✓ Clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer each time you use it.
- ✓ Never smoke in bed.
- ✓ In winter take extra care when using heaters, electric blankets and open fires.
- ✓ Please ensure that any gas heaters are regularly serviced.
- ✓ Don't overload power points and switch off appliances when not in use.
- ✓ Always keep lighters and matches away from children and educate them that they are only to be used by adults.
- ✓ If you have a garage or shed remember to take extra care with any stored chemicals and fuels and always refuel mowers, whipper snippers etc when they are cold and in the open.
- ✓ If you have a gas, electric or wood BBQ check that it is in safe working order before lighting and that it is used by a responsible adult.
- ✓ Keep chemicals well sealed and locked away and well out of reach of children.

BUSH FIRE SAFETY

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET

BUSH FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Ensure that you have a bush fire survival plan that can be used to prepare for a bush fire. Resources available to help you prepare the plan are available at emberapp.com.au or fire.nsw.gov.au.
- Share your bush fire survival plan with a trusted family member or friend who lives close by.
- Practice your bush fire survival plan regularly.
- If you are worried about a bush fire please tune in to your local ABC radio station who will provide you with up to date information.
- Alternatively you may want to download the NSW Government Fires Near Me app.
- If you have been asked to leave your home please do so immediately and do not return until you are told it is safe to do so.
- Look out for your neighbours, especially if they are elderly or have a disability.
- Obtain house contents insurance if you are able to.
- If you live in a bushfire prone area keep the ground around your home clear of leaves and other litter and remember to clean your gutters regularly.

FIRE AND RESCUE NSW

If you need further assistance with preparing your home to be fire safe, Fire and Rescue NSW can provide a Home Safety Visit. During the visit they will attend your home and check that you have working smoke alarms and help you to prepare your fire safety plan. To book an appointment, please visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au.

In some rural areas this service is undertaken by the NSW Rural Fire Service. Please contact your local Fire Brigade to make an appointment.



IN AN EMERGENCY

Call Triple Zero (000)