

# NSW FIRE BRIGADES

## HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Fact Sheet 10 – Community Risk Management. Revised 05/07/2006.



### FACT

In 2005 the NSWFB reported attending 4,493 house fires. Of those, 1016 were caused by unattended heat sources such as foodstuffs on stoves and another 402 by electrical circuits failure.

The areas of the house where most fires occur are the kitchen (2,059) sleeping areas (520) and lounge area (406). Cooking appliances and equipment were involved in 859 fires and heating appliances and systems were involved in 134 fires.

*(Statistics correct as of 05/07/2006)*

### ARE YOU FIRE SAFE IN THE HOME?

The NSW Fire Brigades recommends this simple safety checklist to assist in keeping your home fire safe.

- Installing an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms and testing them regularly is an important part of your home fire safety plan.
- Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are readily accessible in case you need to escape.
- Never leave cooking or any other open flame including candles or oil burners unattended.
- Clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer each and every time you use it.
- Never smoke in bed and take extra care if consuming alcohol whilst smoking.
- In Winter take extra care when using heaters, electric blankets or open fires.
- 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 "tools not toys" to only be used by responsible adults.
- If you have a garage or shed remember to take extra care with any stored chemicals and fuels and always refuel mowers, edgers etc when they are cold and in the open.
- If you have a gas, electric or wood BBQ always check that it is in safe working order before lighting and that it is always in the care of a responsible adult when in use. (See Fact Sheet # 16 General Barbeque Safety).
- 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.

**A collaboration of the NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Rural Fire Service,  
ACT Fire Brigade and ACT Rural Fire Service**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION OR FIRE CONTROL CENTRE

or visit: [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Remember that smoke from a fire will make you confused and that you cannot see in smoke.
- When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will in fact put you into a deeper sleep.
- If you have escaped from a home fire, remember once you get out stay out and dial 000.
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check.
- Only ever use fuses of recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000**