Home heating safety

Fire safety information for public housing residents

KEEP ME

Check your heating to reduce the risk of fire in your home

Home heating is a major cause of house fires in the winter months.

House fires cause major property loss and damage every year.

You can do things to reduce the risk of fire in your home.

Fire safety is everybody's responsibility.

Heaters

Check your heater every winter – especially the electrical cord for loose wires or connections, which can be dangerous.

Keep everything at least 1 metre from the heater, including clothes, furniture, curtains, pets, children and anything that can burn.

Never put your clothes on the heater.

1 metre   1 metre
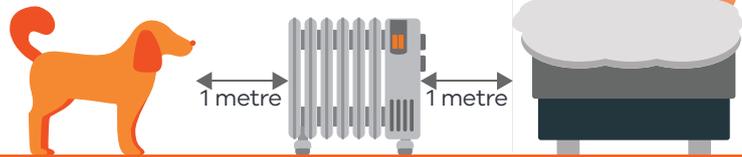
Electric blankets

Check your electric blanket every winter – especially the cord for loose wires or connections, which can be dangerous.

Turn electric blanket on 30 minutes before getting into bed **and turn it off once you are in bed.**

**Keep items off the bed when the electric blanket is on.**

OFF
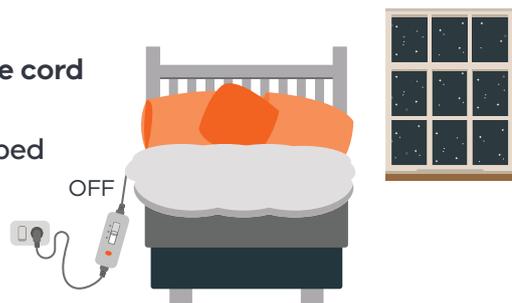
Wood fireplaces

Keep matches and lighters away from children.

Never use petrol, oil or kerosene to light the fire as it can cause an explosion.

Keep everything at least 1 metre from the fireplace, including clothes, furniture, curtains, pets, children and anything that can burn.

Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire.

1 metre   1 metre
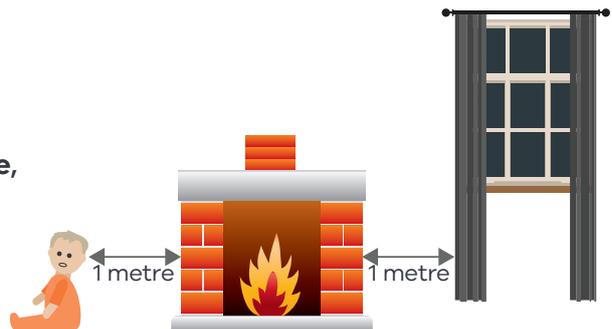
Carbon monoxide

An unsafe heater can cause a house fire or pollute your home with dangerous fumes including carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide can affect your health but you cannot smell or see it.

Do not ignore the alarm if your carbon monoxide detector goes off.

Turn off the gas heater and do not use until it has been tested.

Call the Housing Call Centre on 13 11 72, to arrange an inspection.

VICTORIA State Government | Health and Human Services

If there is a fire in your home or building

Call triple zero if there is a fire 000 ask for 'fire'

Get down low and stay out of the smoke.

If it is safe, warn other people about the fire on your way out.

Close the door to the room where the fire is, and the door of your home as you leave.

Get out of the building and stay out.

Call triple zero (000) and **ask for 'fire'**.

If you can't evacuate

If you can't leave the building **call triple zero (000)**.

Ask for 'fire' and tell them you need **evacuation assistance**.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone the Housing Call Centre 13 11 72, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.