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| Home heating safety |
| Fire safety information for public housing residents  (Accessible) |

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# 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.**

# 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.**

# 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.**

# 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.**

# 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.

# If there is a fire in your home or building

**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**.

Fire safety is everybody’s responsibility.

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