

Community Safety Message

Winter Fire Safety Checklist

As the seasons change and winter fast approaches us in some areas it is now time to run through your winter safety checklist. We recommend this simple checklist to help keep your homes safe from fires this winter. Make sure everyone in your household follows the safety advice.

Safety checklist:

- Most importantly, have an adequate number of smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test them regularly.
- Make sure you and all your family know two safe ways out of every room in your home. Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If you have a fireplace always place a screen in front of it when in use.
- Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- Take care to keep curtains, tablecloths and bedding away from portable heaters. Keep a clear space of at least 1 metre around heaters and never leave unattended.
- If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- Only use one appliance per power point and switch off when not in use.
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed.
- Store matches or lighters in a secure place not accessible to young children.
- If possible, in the kitchen keep a fire extinguisher and fire blanket.
- If you have a fireplace in your home make sure the chimney is clean.
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check.
- Check electric blankets by holding them up to a light – you'll be able to see if any wires are touching.
- Test your electric blanket by laying it flat on top of your bed and turning it on for five minutes to check it is working.
- Store them carefully to protect the wires and replace any electric blanket more than 10 years old.

