

Fire Safety and Smoke Alarms

Why do I need a smoke alarm in my home?

Smoke alarms help protect your life and your property. Smoke alarms are early warning systems that detect smoke and fires and sound a warning alarm, for this reason smoke alarms should not be removed or damaged.

All residential properties must have a working smoke alarm.

When you move into a Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities premises, the Department must ensure there is a working smoke alarm installed.

It is your responsibility as the tenant to ensure that the alarm is maintained in working order.

Being prepared

It is important to be prepared before something happens and there are a few simple things you can do to help protect you and your family. Making sure you have working smoke alarms and preparing a home fire escape plan can give you a greater chance of avoiding and escaping the effects of fire.

How to keep your home fire safe

The Department recommends regular and simple safety checks to make your home fire safe:

- Never smoke in bed
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Check electric blankets for damage (including frayed cords) and replace old ones regularly
- Always turn off electric blankets before getting into bed
- Keep curtains, clothing, tablecloths and bedding away from heaters and candles
- If you use a clothes dryer clean the lint filter every time you use it
- Only use one appliance for every power point
- Switch off appliances when they are not being used
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed or leaving a room
- Store matches and lighters in a secure place away from young children
- Test the smoke alarms every month by pressing and holding the button until it beeps
- If your alarm does not beep, contact your nearest Housing office as soon as possible.

Be prepared in case of a fire

- Talk to your family, including your children about what to do if there is a fire
- Point out where the smoke alarm is and explain what it does
- Develop a home escape plan – include a meeting place and two ways to get out of each room
- Discuss and practise the plan with everyone in the household and keep a copy handy
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are easy to access.

What happens if there is a fire in my home?

- If there is a fire, dial 000
- Your first priority is to ensure that you and your family are safe
- Housing officers will assess all damage to the property to determine if maintenance or repairs are required. Tenants will be relocated until this is completed and will be notified when it is safe to re-enter the property.

How do I deal with a fire?

- Do not attempt to fight a fire
- Escape as quickly as possible and phone 000
- Do not go back inside to save possessions
- If there is smoke, cover your nose and mouth with a cloth and keep close to the floor
- If a fire starts in your home or unit, leave immediately and close the front door firmly, use the nearest stairs to reach ground level and never use a lift if there is a fire
- If a fire starts in another unit or in a common area, leave the building if it is safe
- If it is not safe to leave, phone 000 tell them your location, stay in your unit and close your doors and windows to keep the smoke out
- Heavy sleepers, such as children and those affected by alcohol or drugs, may not hear the alarm so you might need to offer assistance
- If a family member has a hearing or mobility problem, assign someone to help them.

Where can I find more information?

You can visit tfhc.nt.gov.au or the NT Police, Fire, and Emergency Services pfes.nt.gov.au website.

Alternatively you may contact your local Housing office for further information:

Alice Springs	(08) 8951 5344	Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0533
Arafura Region	(08) 8995 5122	Palmerston	(08) 8999 4767
Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 8814	Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4497
Katherine	(08) 8973 8513		