



This fact sheet is for residents whose tenancy was previously managed by Wentworth Community Housing. For more information, please visit our new website: linkwentworth.org.au

Many of the house fires that affect the lives of NSW residents every year are preventable. The key to reducing the dangers in your home is for everyone to understand what they can do to minimise the risks. Have a look at some simple tips that can help you avoid and escape the devastating effects of fire.

How to keep your home fire safe

Fire and Rescue NSW recommend regular and simple safety checks to make your home fire safe:

- Never smoke in bed
- 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 and 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 any smoke alarms every month by pressing and holding the button until it beeps. If your alarm does not beep, call us on 02 4777 8000. Choose 'one' when provided with automated phone menu options.

Be prepared in case of a fire

- Talk to your family, including your children, about what to do if there is 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 practice the plan with everyone in the household and keep a copy handy
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are easy to access
- Hearing impaired tenants can have a strobe light connected to their smoke alarm

What to do in case of 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
- 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 and 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.



Kitchen Fire Safety

- “Keep Looking when Cooking”. Don’t leave your cooking unattended. Turn off the hotplate if you have to leave the kitchen.
- Heat cooking oil carefully and slowly in the right size saucepan to avoid fat splatters.
- Turn pot and pan handles inwards so they won’t be knocked over.
- Clean your stove/grill after each use and clean the range hood filter and all kitchen appliances regularly.
- If cooking oil catches fire, turn off the hotplate and slide the lid over the pan or use the fire blanket to smother the fire.
- Ensure that all cooking appliances are turned off after use. When using the oven always set the timer.
- Don't keep your tea towels, oven mitts and other flammable items near the stove or cooktop.
- Don't use water to put out fat and oil fires. Water can cause the fire to spread rapidly and cause horrific burns.
- Don't carry pans of hot or burning oil through the house as this may spread the fire and cause serious injury.
- Always follow manufacturer's instructions when using cooking appliances. Do not heat non-approved items in the microwave

Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings

- Know where the fire hose reels and portable fire extinguishers are and know how to use them.
- Exit points are clearly identifiable by an illuminated green and white exit sign.
- Familiarise yourself with the exit points that are in your building and where they lead to.
- We conduct annual smoke alarm inspections in our high rise buildings, and it is important you report any problems immediately through to us on 02 4777 8000
- Never use a lift in the case of fire. Lifts are not smoke or fire resistant.
- Fire stairs provide a safe environment that will lead you to a safe place away from the building. Never block open any fire stair doors as this will cause smoke and heat to enter the fire stairs.
- Fire stair doors and external apartment doors are designed to self close every time. Report any problems with these doors to us immediately.

If you need more information, please contact Link Wentworth on 9412 5111 or email enquiries@linkwentworth.org.au