

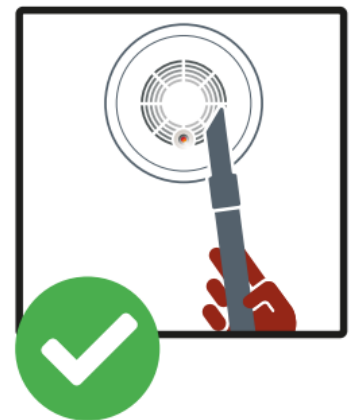
The cooler months are around the corner and the wintertime brings more chimney fires, dryer fires, fires caused from faulty electric blankets and incorrect use of wheat filled heat packs. Accidents can happen and the best warning you can have of a fire in your home is a working smoke alarm.

**Smoke alarms** effectively detect the toxic smoke from a fire that can cause serious injury or potentially kill you. This early detection provides you and your family time to safely evacuate.

- All smoke alarms have a use by date of 10 years - after this time, the entire alarm must be replaced. The back of the alarm will indicate a manufacture date or a replace-by date.
- Replace wireless lead/alkaline battery type alarms for smoke alarms with an inbuilt 10-year lithium battery.
- 240-volt smoke alarms have a back-up battery – if your smoke alarm is wired into your electricity then change the back-up battery every year.
- Install a smoke alarm in each sleeping area (bedroom), hallway, living area, and at the top of stairways in a multi-level home.
- These smoke alarms should be interconnect - so when one goes off, they all go off alerting you and your family at the earliest possible time.
- For older people or people with a disability - smoke alarms should be connected to a personal alarm.
- For people with hearing impairment - install a smoke alarm for the deaf or hard of hearing in bedrooms. Especially people who wear hearing aids during the day and then remove their aides to sleep.
- Young children are likely to sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm, so you must alert them to a fire and help them escape to safety.



**Test smoke alarms monthly and vacuum dust and cobwebs from alarms every six months.**

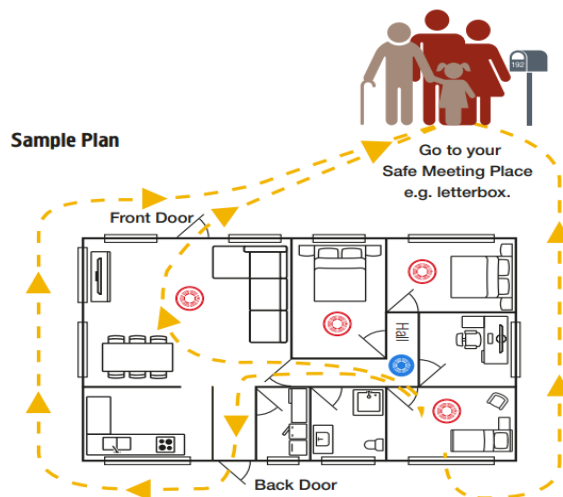


**Your home fire escape plan is** possibly the most important plan you'll ever make. Design your home fire escape plan to suit your home and talk about it with everybody in the house. Make a home fire escape plan and practice at least twice a year.

- Crawl low if caught in smoke.
- Use windows as an alternative means of escape if safe to do so.
- Once out, stay out at a safe meeting place outside your home (e.g. next to your letterbox).
- Never go back inside.
- Call triple zero (000) and ask for the fire service.

The best fire escape plan is worthless if your escape route is blocked. While deadlocks and security grilles may deter intruders, they can be deadly in a fire. When you are in the house:

- Leave keys in any deadlock, or on a hook (preferably attached to a chain) close to the door or window, and out of reach of intruders.
- Make sure that window security grilles and screens open readily from the inside.
- Make sure that all windows and doors open easily for all members of your family.
- If you have visitors staying over for the first time, show them your escape plan so they know what to do in a fire emergency. Make sure they know where your Safe Meeting Place is located.



**The Tasmania Fire Service's free fire safety resources** can be ordered online [tfseducation.com.au/online-ordering](https://tfseducation.com.au/online-ordering) or factsheets printed via [tfseducation.com.au/resources/publications](https://tfseducation.com.au/resources/publications)

To receive fire safety information in the post contact **1800 000 699** and ask for the Community Education Unit.

If you have any questions about home fire safety or have concerns of a person's fire risk, please contact [communityed@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:communityed@fire.tas.gov.au) or phone **1800 000 699**.