



# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST - for people at higher risk


## PREVENT

Preventing fires from starting is the first line of defence. The best way to do this is to replace unsafe behaviours or situations with safer ones.


 COOKING		Tips	What I will do
Do you leave the kitchen when cooking and no-one else is there?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Stay in the kitchen if you are cooking, as most house fires start here.	
Are there extra things around your stove that could catch fire?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Keep flammable items like curtains, tea towels and paper towel away from the stove top.	
Do you cook with oil?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Hot oil can catch fire, so always stay in the kitchen when cooking with oil. Never use water to put out an oil fire.	
Do you keep your cooking area clean?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Keep your stove area clean including rangehoods.	
Do you always remember to turn the stove or oven off?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Always check the oven and stove are turned off before going to bed or leaving the house.	
Do you have a fire extinguisher or fire blanket?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Store a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen where they are easy to reach. Only use it if safe to do so.	

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT	Tips	What I will do
Do you leave your laptop or other devices charging on your bed or couch?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Charge devices on surfaces that do not burn easily, such as the kitchen bench or a table.
Do you charge mobility devices such as a mobility scooter or an electric wheelchair?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Place chargers on surfaces that will not burn, and ensure you charge devices where they won't block the exits from your home. Unplug them once they are charged.
Do you use an electric blanket at night when you are in bed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Turn off your electric blanket before you go to sleep. When you aren't using it, switch it off at the power point.
Do you have double adaptors and power boards?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Avoid overloading double adaptors and power boards, and ensure they are surge protected.
Do you have any damaged power cords on your appliances?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Do not use electrical equipment with damaged power cords, replace them immediately.
Do all your electrical appliances have this symbol? 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	All electrical equipment should have an Australian Standard or a Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM).  Go to <b>Energy Safe Victoria</b> to learn more.

Do you dry your clothes near your heater?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Keep your clothes at least 1 metre away from the heater.	
Do you have an open fire place?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Use a screen in front of your open fire to stop sparks and embers getting out and starting a fire. Get the chimney regularly cleaned by a certified technician.  Check that embers are cold before disposal. Keep flammable items away from the fire place, a general rule is at least 1 metre from the heater.	
Do you have gas heating?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Have gas heaters serviced every year to make sure they are working properly.	
Do you turn off your heater before you go to bed or go out?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Turn off your heater before going to bed or leaving the house.	
Do you have children in the house?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Children should be supervised near heaters and open fire places.	

 <b>CANDLES &amp; INCENSE</b>		<b>Tips</b>	<b>What I will do</b>
Do you use candles, incense or oil burners?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Only use on surfaces that don't burn, like the kitchen sink. Make sure they are extinguished before going to bed or going out. Consider alternatives to open flame candles or oil burners; for example, a battery-operated candle or a diffuser.	

 <b>DRYER</b>		<b>Tips</b>	<b>What I will do</b>
Do you use a dryer to dry your clothes?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each load. Let the dryer complete its cooldown cycle before stopping.	

 <b>SMOKING</b>		<b>Tips</b>	<b>What I will do</b>
Do you smoke inside?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Consider smoking outside. If you do smoke inside consider a designated area with access to enclosed ashtrays.	
Do you smoke in bed or when affected by medications, drugs or alcohol?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Smoking in bed is one of the leading causes of fire-related deaths.	
Do you dispose of cigarette butts safely, so they won't catch fire?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Dispose of butts in a high-sided or enclosed ashtray.	
Do you have children in the house?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children	

🏠 HOARDING	Tips		What I will do
Is your house cluttered with items such as stacks of newspapers, cardboard or clothing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Keep cooking and heating appliances, pathways and doorways clear of accumulated items so that you can get out if there is a fire. Install interconnected smoke alarms in every accessible room.	

## 🔊 DETECT

A working smoke alarm provides early warning and time to escape safely if a fire starts.


🔊 SMOKE ALARMS	Tips		What I will do
Do you have a working smoke alarm?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Smoke alarms are required by law in all homes. Replace or install smoke alarms yourself or get someone to do for you.	
Do you test your smoke alarm every month?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	To test, press the test button on the smoke alarm every month, and wait for the 'beep, beep, beep'. If it does beep, this means your smoke alarm is still working.	
Do you have more than one smoke alarm?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Ensure your smoke alarms are interconnected so that when one smoke alarm activates, all of them activate.	
Are you Deaf or hard of hearing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Install a specialist smoke alarm that alerts you in the most suitable way for you.	
Do you need additional help to recognise or respond to an activating smoke alarm?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	For people that may have trouble recognising or responding to a smoke alarm, Victorian fire services recommend having a personal alarm that is linked to a smoke alarm.	

More information on smoke alarms at [www.frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms](http://www.frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms) or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms)

For the Deaf and hard of hearing: <https://www.expression.com.au/services/smoke-alarm-subsidy>

## ESCAPE

A written Home Fire Escape Plan will help you and other people in your home know what to do if a fire starts or an alarm goes off.

 HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN	Tips	Actions I will do
Do you have a Home Fire Escape Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Have a Home Fire Escape Plan so that you know how to exit your home quickly if there is a fire.	

For more information about home fire safety go to: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home) OR [www.frv.vic.gov.au/home-fire-safety-0](http://www.frv.vic.gov.au/home-fire-safety-0)

You can download the Home Fire Safety Booklet here: [www.frv.vic.gov.au/home-fire-safety-booklet](http://www.frv.vic.gov.au/home-fire-safety-booklet)