

# Home Fire Safety Checklist

## PREVENTION

- Never leave your cooking unattended.
- Keep tea towels and other flammable items away from cooking appliances.
- Ensure dishwashers have completed their cycle before leaving the house.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when using wheat bags to prevent overheating.
- Regularly clean your oven, stove top and rangehood.
- Check all electrical appliances and cords for damage; do not use if damaged.
- Do not overload power boards by connecting double adapters to them.
- Regularly clean your clothes dryer and air conditioning filters.
- Keep all combustible material (e.g. clothes, bed linen, curtains) away from heaters and lamps. Never hang clothes on the heater to dry them out.
- Roll electric blankets, never fold, to store for next season.
- Do not leave devices (e.g. mobile phones, laptops) on charge for extended periods of time and ensure that devices are placed on a suitable fire-resistant surface.
- Never leave lit cigarettes, candles or incense unattended.
- Ensure there is adequate clearing around the BBQ when in use. Never put flammable liquid on a BBQ and never use BBQ's indoors.

## SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

- Test smoke alarms once a month using the test button.
- Clean smoke alarms once a month using a vacuum cleaner or a soft brush.
- Change the batteries of battery-operated smoke alarms at least once a year.
- Do not hinder the device (e.g. smoke alarms must never be painted).
- If activated from cooking/steam use the 'hush' button (if fitted) or disperse smoke/steam (e.g. wave a towel near the alarm). Never disconnect a smoke alarm.
- All types of smoke alarms have a limited life-span and must be replaced every 10 years. Look for the year of manufacture sticker or stamp.

## DETECTION AND ESCAPE

- Plan at least two safe ways out of each room. Practise this with your family.
- Designate a safe meeting point. E.g. letterbox.
- Store any security grill keys and door keys in a central location, known to all occupants.
- Prioritise escaping the building then make the 000 call.
- If possible, close doors behind you as you exit, as this will provide you with extra time.
- Never re-enter a burning house.

If you are concerned about the fire risks in and around your home, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) to book your FREE **safehome** visit or book online at [www.qfes.qld.gov.au](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au)

