



FIRE
EMERGENCY

NEW ZEALAND

INFORMATION AND FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Fires are hot, fast and toxic!

It takes only 3 minutes to lose your home and family to fire.

Fires in a room burn very fast and give off poisonous smoke.
If you breathe this smoke, you will die.

Keep lighters and matches out of reach

Many house fires are started by children playing with matches, lighters and candles.

Get Firewise teaches children who find matches and lighters to take them to an adult.

If your child brings you matches or a lighter:

- Put them in a safe place
- Praise your child for being Firewise

Keep looking while you're cooking

Did you know:

- There are around 4,000 house fires in New Zealand each year
- 1/4 of all house fires start in the kitchen
- 1/3 of all fire deaths are caused by unattended cooking
- Alcohol is involved in 50% of all fatal house fires


And, don't drink and fry.

Keep clear of the heater

Keep people and things 1 metre from the heater.

Overloaded plugs can kill – use a multi-board with a circuit breaker.

Make sure children's nightwear has this label.

Category	Description	Fire hazard information label
1	Garments made from fabric of the low fire hazard type and which comply with Section 1	LOW FIRE DANGER
2	Garments made from fabric which does not comply with Section 1 but which are designed to reduce fire hazard and which comply with Section 2	CAUTION NOT HEAT OR FLAME RESISTANT WEAR SNUG-FITTING TO REDUCE RISK
3	All-in-one garments made predominantly from knitted fabrics, in Sizes 00 to 2, which comply with Section 3	
4	Garments which do not comply with Sections 1 to 3, but which comply with Section 4	WARNING HIGH FIRE DANGER KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE 

Are your smoke alarms working?

When you are asleep you cannot smell smoke.

- If there is a fire in your house, the smoke alarm will wake you up
- If you do not have a smoke alarm and you are asleep when a fire starts, the poisonous smoke will kill you
- Install long life smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway
- Make sure you use photoelectric smoke alarms
- Contact your local fire station if you need help installing a smoke alarm
- For more information visit www.fireandemergency.nz

It's no use having a smoke alarm if it's not working!

- You are 4 times more likely to survive a fire in your home if you have working smoke alarms
- When a smoke alarm starts cheeping, this means the battery needs to be changed
- Change the smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving
- Test your smoke alarms every month by pushing the test buttons and making sure the alarm beeps

Make your escape plan

An escape plan is a diagram showing all the rooms of your house and 2 ways out of each room.

- You need 2 ways out of every room in case the main way out is blocked by fire
- The 2 exits from a room as usually the door and a window

Practice using your escape plan. (Tick / circle the following)

- Make sure everyone in your family can get out of the 2 exits from each room
- Explain to your children that if they hear the smoke alarm, they must STOP what they are doing and get out of the house FAST
 - They must NOT take time to gather possessions or pets
 - They must NOT look for other members of the family
 - They must get out FAST, go to the safe meeting place and wait for the rest of the family there
- Remind your children that if there is a fire, they might have to do this without an adult with them

Your home can be secure and fire safe

Everybody must be able to get out of the house quickly in a fire

- If any doors or windows need a key to unlock them from the inside, leave the key in the lock
- Help your children practise unlocking and opening doors and windows
- Make sure your children can reach all the windows and can open them easily
- Make sure your hallways are clear of things so your family can move quickly and safely in the dark

Do you live in a two-storey house?

If you do, you could:

- Have a ladder attached to the outside wall of your house
- Attach a rope near a window that opens so people can climb down it

If you can't escape from upstairs windows and you can't use the stairs, teach your family to:

- Go into a room where there is no fire and shut the door
- Go to the window and open it
- Breathe the fresh air
- Wave and shout **FIRE, FIRE, FIRE**
- Wait to be rescued

Your safe meeting place

The safe meeting place is where you and your family will meet if there is a fire in your home.

A safe meeting place is:

- well away from the house
- away from power lines and things that can burn
- near a road or driveway so that emergency services can find you

It could be your letterbox or gate.

Call 111

If your home is on fire call 111 from a safe place.

- 111 calls are free from all phones. Use your mobile phone, a phone from the neighbour's house or a payphone
- Ask for Fire and Emergency
- Tell the operator:
 - House number
 - Street, for example 'Devon Street'
 - Nearest intersection, cross street or corner, for example, 'Devon Street is off Rimu Road'
 - Suburb and city, or
 - Rural ID number, if you have one
- Check that every member of your family over the age of 5 can call 111 and give their name and address
- Make sure your family knows that you only call 111 in an emergency and not as a joke

Firefighters fight fires and rescue people

Do NOT go into a burning building to rescue people.

- In a fire, the firefighters will come and rescue people. They have fire-resistant clothing and breathing gear to keep them safe
- If you go back into the house to look for anyone or anything, you are risking your life. You are likely to be overcome by the smoke, become unconscious and die

Keeping your family safe from fire

- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Have working smoke alarms in your home
- Make an escape plan and practise it with the whole family
- If there is a fire in your house, get out **FAST** and do not go back inside
- If there is a fire in a room, **get down, get low, get out – FAST**

Candles

Children should not:

- Be left alone with a lit candle
- Light candles, move them or put them out
- Have a lit candle near their bed

If you are using a candle, place it on a flat, wide base that won't burn and ensure it will catch any dripping candle wax.

Get down, get low, get out – FAST

If a fire starts in a room you are in, you have less than 3 minutes to get out safely.

- Keep low under the smoke
- Smoke is poisonous and more deadly than flames. If you breathe the smoke for even a few seconds, it will kill you
- When the fire starts, the smoke will be at the top of the room. You need to get out FAST, keeping low under the smoke

If the smoke level is very low, you will have to crawl.

- Get down, get low, get out – FAST
- Shut the door
- Shout **FIRE, FIRE, FIRE**
- Stay out
- Go to the safe meeting place

If you cannot escape through the door, you should then:

- Shut the door – this will give you extra time to escape the smoke and heat
- Crawl to the window, keeping low and under the smoke, take a deep breath of air, then reach up and open the window
- Take another deep breath of air from under the smoke level, then climb out the window and shout **FIRE, FIRE, FIRE**
- Go to your safe meeting place – never go back inside
- Call 111 from somewhere away from the burning building



A FIRE-SAFETY CHECK TO DO AT NIGHT

- ☐ Do a fire check every night before you put out the light.
- ☐ Is all cooking off the stove and is it turned off?
- ☐ Is the fire in the fireplace out?
- ☐ Are all electrical appliances, including televisions, DVD's, computers and hairdryers turned off at the wall?
- ☐ Are all heaters turned off?
- ☐ Are all electric blankets turned off before you go to bed?
- ☐ Are all cigarettes stubbed out in a safe container?
- ☐ Are all candles out?
- ☐ Are all doors closed to slow the speed of fire?
- ☐ Are all doors secure, with keys in deadlocks?
- ☐ Are all ways out of the house clear, so people can get out FAST?
- ☐ Is all your family secure and safe?