



Home Fire Safety

House fires can start and spread quickly, so being prepared and having a home fire escape plan prepared is essential. Young children are particularly at risk in a house fire as they do not have the skills to assess dangers and may tend to hide in a closet or under the bed.

House fires can be extremely devastating to a child and their family and can result in serious and life-threatening injuries.

Gas Safety

Gas is a flammable substance with a distinctive odour, similar to rotten eggs, that is commonly used in households¹.

Gas safety tips

- If you smell rotten eggs, leave the area quickly and don't use anything that might create a spark.
- If the flame on the burner isn't blue, it may need servicing.
- Air filters, oven filters and fans should be cleaned regularly.
- Protect your BBQ from the elements by throwing on a cover for protection between uses.
- Never use a gas stove or BBQ to heat your home.
- Outdoor patio heater should be used outdoors only.
- Know where your gas meter is located and know how to turn it off.

If you suspect a gas leak, leave the area quickly and call ATCO on 13 13 52 or report online.

If an electrical fire starts

1. Do not use water to put it out
2. Turn off the power if it is safe to do so
3. Call 000.
4. Do not re-enter a burning house for any reason.
5. Wait for firefighters to arrive.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless and colourless gas. CO poisoning can result from gas/wood fired heaters, gas cooking appliances, portable generators, hot water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars exhausts.

If CO builds up in a home and is breathed in, it can cause loss of consciousness or death. Symptoms may include headache, nausea and vomiting, shortness of breath, dizziness, confusion, chest pain and more².

Preventing CO Poisoning

- Install carbon monoxide detectors and test them regularly. It is recommended that a carbon monoxide detector is installed or near every room where a gas heater is used.
- Use generators, outdoor heaters and barbecues outside of your home and away from windows and doors. Warm up vehicles outside of your garage.
- If the CO alarm sounds, quickly leave your home. Move to a safe location outside where you can breathe fresh air and then call for help.

Lithium-ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are a type of rechargeable battery which are available in different sizes and can be highly flammable. Most laptops, mobile phones, e-bikes, e-scooters, and power banks contain a lithium-ion battery³.

Preventing fires and burns.

- Buy products that contain lithium-ion batteries from a reputable supplier.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Store lithium-ion batteries and products in cool, dry places and out of direct sunlight.
- Allow the lithium-ion battery to cool after use and before recharging and never charge lithium-ion batteries or products on flammable materials such as beds, sofas or carpet.
- Buy replacement batteries from the original supplier or reputable supplier where possible.
- Do not throw away lithium-ion batteries in household rubbish. Ensure they are disposed of at a safe disposal site.



Home Fire Safety Checklist

	YES	NO
Is there working smoke alarms in your home? When did you last change the batteries?	☐	☐
Do you have a fire blanket and fire extinguisher in your home?	☐	☐
Has your family discussed, agreed upon and practiced a safe meeting place if a fire occurs?	☐	☐
Does everyone in the family know STOP, DROP, COVER and ROLL?	☐	☐
Is there anything blocking your exit?	☐	☐
Are any doors or windows locked?	☐	☐
Do you use a fire screen in front of open fireplaces?	☐	☐
Are children supervised at all times around fireplaces, firepits, and heaters?	☐	☐
Are your fireplace, chimney and flue clean before use?	☐	☐
Are all candles and oil burners extinguished before leaving a room?	☐	☐
Are lighters and matches kept in a high, locked cupboard out of reach of small children?	☐	☐
Are all heaters turned off after use?	☐	☐
Do you clean the lint filter in your dryer after every use?	☐	☐
Are all electric blankets turned off before going to sleep?	☐	☐
Do you turn off the stove when not in view of it?	☐	☐
Do you keep clothing, furniture, and curtains at least 1 metre away from heaters?	☐	☐
Do you use power boards with built in safety switches?	☐	☐
Are your outdoor gas appliances used in a well-ventilated area?	☐	☐
Have you checked your electrical items for signs of damage and replace if needed?	☐	☐



In the case of a house fire

1. Evacuate immediately via the nearest exit.
2. Crawl low under smoke.
3. Go to your safe meeting place.
4. Call 000.
5. Do not re-enter a burning house for any reason.
6. Wait for firefighters to arrive.

References:

- ¹ ATCO Gas. Retrieved from: <https://gassafety.com.au/>
- ² Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Retrieved from: <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/fire-in-the-home>
- ³ ACCC Product Safety. Retrieved from: <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/consumers/be-safe-around-the-home/safely-use-batteries-and-technology/lithium-ion-batteries-guide#toc-about-lithium-ion-batteries>

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