

# media release



## Watch out for home fire risks

Wednesday, 8 April 2020

As more South Australians are leading restricted lifestyles due to COVID-19, the community is reminded to practice fire safety at home.

SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) encourage South Australians to take the time to address fire hazards at home such as overloading power boards, overheated chargers and cooking fires.

MFS Commander of Community Safety and Resilience Phil Crossley said working from home is a new reality for many South Australians and the community should avoid electrical hazards.

“At times of uncertainty, a house fire should not add to your worries and you can do that by identifying any fire risks in your home to prevent a fire,” MFS Commander Crossley said.

“Don’t overload power boards, or plug multiple power boards together into a single power socket.

“Laptops, mobile phones, tablets should be charged on a non-flammable surface rather than in bed or on any soft furniture.”

The MFS has launched [home fire safety activities](#) on the website to keep children in different age groups engaged while learning about fire safety.

Country Fire Service Acting Director of Preparedness Operations Joel Taggart said preparation and prevention could potentially save lives.

“We are here to support the community when they need us but the community needs to play their part in practicing safe measures at home,” CFS Acting Director of Preparedness Operations Taggart said.

“Bring your family together, including children, to plan where the escape routes are if a fire starts inside your house.

“Now is the time to get your chimneys and flues cleaned before the cooler weather start.”

Minister for Emergency Services Corey Wingard said it’s important to be as prepared as possible and to know what your plan is if a fire starts in your home.

“As with bushfire survival plans, it’s also vital to know how your family might react in the event of a house fire,” the Minister said.

“Make sure you speak about the potential risks with your children and how best to respond. The MFS has some really fantastic fire safety information on their website and I encourage everyone to take the time to have a look.”

Home fire safety tips:

- Don’t overload or piggyback power boards.

**For media enquiries telephone the**

**MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8115 3531**

**Further information:**

MFS Community Education Department **8204 3611** Country callers **1300 737 637**

For deaf and hearing impaired or teletype service **TTY 133 67**

Or visit [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

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- Don't charge laptops, tablets and mobile phones in bedding or soft furniture. Choose a sturdy, non-flammable surface away from combustibles that's well ventilated
- Check smoke alarms are working. Only working smoke alarms save lives.
- Keep watching when cooking. Equip your kitchen with a fire blanket or a Dry Chemical Powder fire extinguisher.
- Prepare a Home Fire Escape Plan. Make sure your home security such as grilles and flyscreens does not prevent your family from escaping a fire.
- Check electrical appliances and cords for any fault before using. Don't cover electrical cords under rugs.

For more home fire activities and information, visit [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)

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