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**METROPOLITAN  
FIRE  
SERVICE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### AIR CONDITIONER FIRE DANGER!

A family had a lucky escape last night when their evaporative air conditioner started a fire in the roof of their home. The incident has prompted a warning from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service about the maintenance of air conditioners.

Too often at the start of summer we turn the evaporative air conditioner on without any thought for what might have happened since we used it last season.

“An air conditioner is a machine which must be serviced regularly!” District Officer Allan Foster, from the Metropolitan Fire Service, said. “We service our cars regularly to keep them running efficiently and safely. We should take the same care of our air conditioners – especially as we usually leave them running at night when we are most vulnerable to fire.”

Before evaporative air conditioners are used at the start of each summer they should be serviced by a qualified technician. Not only must filters and pads be cleaned and belts tensioned correctly, but pumps, electrical wiring and bearings in the motor must all be checked. Only a qualified technician can do this properly.

District Officer Foster also issued a reminder about the importance of every house having and PRACTISING a Home Fire Escape Plan so that if a fire does occur, even in the middle of the night, everyone can escape from the house quickly and safely.

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**Government  
of South Australia**