



Government  
of South Australia

**SA Metropolitan Fire  
Service**

**Media Release**



**25 July 2006**

## **YOU ARE SECURE BUT ARE YOU SAFE?**

**A young man is fighting for his life today following a house fire in Evanston last night. The doors of his house were deadlocked, the windows had security screens and he was unable to escape from the fire.**

With today's increasing concerns about security, people often don't think how they would get out of their homes in an emergency.

Station Officer Greg Smithson, from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service said,

"It is vitally important to remember that, if you have deadlocks, when you are at home you must keep the keys in the dead locks."

He said that when you increase the security of your home you often decrease your means of escape so you must increase the early warning of a fire. Install additional smoke alarms and have them interconnected to give you and your family the maximum time to escape.

SO Smithson added, "Another thing to remember is that any security shutters you install must have a quick release mechanism on the inside so that you don't block off windows as a means of escape."

He said that even if you live alone you need to work out a Home Fire Escape Plan – have working smoking alarms which are interconnected and maintained regularly, make sure that your security doesn't compromise your emergency escape, know how to escape from each room of your house and have an agreed place to meet so that everyone in the house can be accounted for.

"Most important of all, you should practise your evacuation, at night and in the dark, so that if a fire does happen everyone knows what to do," he said.

For further information, photo or interview opportunity contact:

Name: SO Greg Smithson  
Title: Community Safety Officer  
Phone: 0400 109 621  
Email: smithson.gregory@samfs.sa.gov.au