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MEDIA RELEASE

EARTH HOUR 2008

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) supports the Earth Hour initiative this Saturday evening.

The MFS warns people not to use the fuse box to turn lights off at 8 pm as the smoke alarm may also be disabled if back-up batteries have gone flat.

Also District Officer, Allan Foster of the MFS Community Safety Department recommends that people use torches rather than candles, as they are much safer light sources.

“Remember: *A candle is an open flame and a fire danger. Left unattended candles can easily cause a house fire,”* Mr Foster says.

The MFS offers the following tips for safe use of candles:

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, paper, curtains etc.
- Make sure candles are placed in sturdy holders that will not tip over and place on a secure piece of heat-resistant furniture. Candle holders must be non-combustible.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Do not use candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep the immediate area around a candle clear of all items.’

More information on Candle Safety can be accessed on the MFS website at <http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au/community/domestic.asp>.

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