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**METROPOLITAN
FIRE
SERVICE**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Fires and Smoke Alarms

A number of serious and tragic house fires recently have highlighted that merely complying with smoke alarm regulations may not be sufficient to give the best level of safety from fire. A family of four at Valley View this morning had a narrow escape from a fire which destroyed their house when one room became fully involved in fire in the time it took to make a cup of coffee. In this case a single smoke alarm was installed and operated to alert the occupants of the house.

“Fires start and spread in houses rapidly due to the furnishings and fabrics used and fire spread is assisted with the modern style of houses with their open plan layouts. Ensure that the level of security or your mobility does not impede your ability to escape in the event of fire such as the use of deadlocks or security grilles” said Allan Foster from the Community Safety Department of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS).

“Many students study with their doors closed. Many people sleep with their doors closed. In the event of a fire activating the single required smoke alarm in the passageway as it may go unheard” he said.

“The MFS recommends that the best protection across a range of fires is provided by photo-electric smoke alarms installed in all bedrooms and living areas, which are hard-wired to the 240 volt power supply and interconnected to provide the earliest possible warning. Have a practised home fire escape plan so you and your family know what to do. It’s cheap protection for you and your family!”

The MFS has a website with brochures and circulars available for downloading. www.mfs.sa.gov.au

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