

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WARNING

Monday 22 December 2008

The Metropolitan Fire Service has warned consumers to make sure that adequate ventilation is provided to transformers which are commonly used for Christmas tree lights.

The warning follows a house fire yesterday attributed to an item being placed over a transformer which caused it to overheat.

Two people were asleep inside the two-storey home when the fire broke out in an upstairs bedroom.

One of them was woken by the smell of smoke and alerted the other occupant to flee from the building and they contacted the MFS.

Fire cause investigator Greg Smithson says there was only one smoke alarm in the double-storey home but was located downstairs in an area that failed to detect the fire in the upstairs bedroom.

“This incident highlights the importance for double-storey homes to have a smoke alarm fitted in the most effective location on both levels of the home,” he said.

Fortunately in this instance, the two occupants were not injured as a consequence of the fire.

The fire caused about \$65,000 damage to the roof and ceiling.

Advice and information about positioning smoke detectors is available from the MFS by emailing communitysafety@samfs.sa.gov.au