



Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade

For those 868,900 electors who, in 1976, voted against daylight saving in NSW (out of 2,787,177) it is now time to celebrate the end of yet another period of daylight saving (now lasting 6 months of the year). On Sunday 4 April at 3:00 am the clocks will be officially put back one hour.

We all know that this is the unofficial time to replace the batteries in our smoke alarms and prepare for what is traditionally the worst time of year for fires in the home. Yes, we're nearly back to winter when we start tweaking those dusty old heaters that have been in hibernation for the past few months and spend lovely warm moments in the kitchen cooking up Grandma's favourite stew recipe.

Last month you were reminded about fire extinguishers and blankets so hopefully there's no need to go there again! However perhaps a few simple winter fire safety tips wouldn't go astray at this time.

- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended on the stove or in the oven and always supervise children in the kitchen – it can be a very dangerous place.
- ✓ Thoroughly check all appliances that you are probably using for the first time since last winter (heaters, electric blankets, clothes dryers etc) – and don't leave those appliances on all day.
- ✓ Keep flammable objects (eg children's clothing) at least 1 metre away from heaters ie don't dry clothes by draping them over the nearest convenient heater. *[A BRUNSWICK family of seven was forced to flee their home after clothes drying around a heater in the living room caught alight. Metropolitan Fire Brigade spokesman Trevor Woodward said the smoke alarm in the Brunswick West home went off about 4am. "The fire started in the living room when clothes caught alight after being left drying in front of a heater," Mr Woodward said in a statement. "Within a few minutes of the alarm sounding, the whole house was in flames and escape would then have been almost impossible." More than 20 firefighters attended the blaze and the single-storey brick veneer house was damaged so badly it would most likely have to be demolished, he said. Mr Woodward said the family owed their lives to the smoke alarm. (AAP July 22, 2008)]*
- ✓ Clean the lint filters in your clothes dryer after each use and never leave a dryer operating when you're out of the house (or any electrical appliance for that matter).
- ✓ For those of you who still have an open fire – make sure your exhaust system (flue and chimney) work properly and use an appropriate fireplace screen. Failing to maintain your wood stove or fireplace properly can lead to a chimney fire. Chimney fires occur when combustible deposits on the inner walls of the chimney ignite. These combustible deposits, called "creosote," are a natural byproduct of woodburning. A fire hazard exists if 6mm (1/4 inch) of creosote (or more) coats the inner walls of the chimney. Chimney fires do not occur in clean, intact, properly installed chimneys (hpba.org) ... and of course you should never leave children unsupervised around open fires.
- ✓ Don't forget that home escape plan you developed last year (or did you?). Now is a good time to rehearse, with all your family, what you would do if a fire started somewhere in your house – say the kitchen.



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Michael Jones
44738671