

Carrajung Rural Fire Brigade



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WINTER IS THE HIGHEST RISK PERIOD FOR RESIDENTIAL FIRES DUE TO THE INCREASED USE OF HEATING EQUIPMENT.

“The majority of house fires CFA attend are preventable. These fires traumatise families and have the potential to cause significant injuries and tragically some fires result in deaths.”

SMOKE ALARMS



The ‘change your clock – check/change your smoke alarm batteries’ message has been around for many years now. Newer homes, under building regulations, will have mains powered interconnected alarms, but in the event of a power outage these units rely upon a working battery backup. When you sleep, your sense of smell also sleeps. If a fire starts, toxic fumes can overcome you.

Ionisation smoke alarms ‘feel’ smoke by detecting invisible particles of combustion, like when you burn your toast in the kitchen, and activate quickly for fast-flaming fires. Evidence suggests they are not as effective at detecting slow-smouldering fires, which are generally the fires that lead to deaths in homes.

Photoelectric smoke alarms ‘see’ smoke by detecting visible particles of combustion and react more quickly to smouldering fires. They are more reliable and less likely to produce false alarm activations. When photoelectric alarms activate, the smoke is still at the top layer of the ceiling, above head height and this gives residents more time to evacuate safely. This additional warning time is critical in allowing the safe escape of all persons.

All alarms have a ‘button’ on the unit for self-testing. It only takes a few minutes and could save a life.