**2024 SPRING FIRE SAFETY NEWSLETTERS**

**Reducing kitchen fires during Spring**

There were 937 residential fires across NSW in spring last year, and 43% of them started in kitchens or cooking areas

The majority of fires occurred because people got distracted while cooking, a behaviour that firefighters are urging people to change.

Do not leave food unattended whilst cooking. Leaving the room for a matter of seconds has the potential to destroy a home, belongings and most importantly lives.

If a fire does occur in your kitchen:

* Never throw water on a stove top fire – water can intensify the flames.
* Have a fire blanket nearby to place over the fire and smother the flames.
* Have a working smoke alarm.
* Get out and stay out. Do not risk your life by going back in for a few belongings.

**Most importantly, if a fire does occur, get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000).**

For more tips on keeping fire safe visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

**Understanding the risks of lithium-ion batteries**

In 2023, there were 272 lithium-ion related fire incidents, making it the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales.

While lithium-ion batteries are crucial to the clean energy transition, they can pose serious threats to human safety if they malfunction.

When it comes to charging and storing lithium-ion devices:

* Always charge larger devices, such as e-bikes, e-scooters and power tools outside, away from living spaces and exits.
* Never sleep or leave home while lithium-ion battery devices are charging.
* Disconnect the device from its charger once it is fully charged.
* Never leave devices charging on beds, sofas or around soft materials.
* Always store lithium-ion batteries and products in cool, dry places and out of direct sunlight.

**Most importantly, if a fire does occur, get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000).**

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**Spring clean for fire safety**

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is encouraging the community to spring clean responsibly to help reduce the risk of fire on their properties.

When it comes to spring cleaning, keep you and your family safe from fire by:

* Clearing out any rubbish, old newspapers, cardboard boxes and any other unused materials that could fuel a fire.
* Rolling, not folding electric blankets when putting into storage. Folding can damage the wiring. Check the hose and connections on any LPG-fuelled barbecues before use.
* Clear leaves and litter from gutters.
* Making sure you have a working smoke alarm.
* **Most importantly, if a fire does occur, get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000).**

Fire and Rescue NSW encourages residents to book a safety visit. Local firefighters will come to your home to conduct a fire safety inspection and will install a working smoke alarm, free of charge, if required.

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