

FIRE SAFETY

International students are increasingly appearing in statistics related to fire incidents and deaths in Australia. Sadly, most of these fires are preventable.

You can take some simple steps to reduce the risk of fire in your accommodation, by following these fire-safety tips.

COOKING

Most house fires start in the kitchen.

- Prepare food only in the kitchen
- Always stay in the kitchen while food is cooking



- Hot oils and fats catch fire easily
 - Do not use water to put out an oil fire
 - Use a dry powder extinguisher, fire blanket or saucepan lid to extinguish them if it's safe to do so
- Turn off all cooking appliances before you leave the room or go to bed



SMOKE ALARMS



When you're sleeping you cannot smell smoke. Smoke alarms save lives. They wake you and alert you to the danger from smoke and fire. You **MUST** have a smoke alarm where you live. That is the law. All homes must

have a smoke alarm on each level. Landlords are legally responsible for the installation of alarms in rental properties; tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining them. If you live on campus there will be a smoke alarm in your room. If you live off campus in a house or flat there must be a smoke alarm outside your bedroom.

Look after your smoke alarm; it can save your life.

Test your smoke alarm regularly by pressing the test button

DON'T remove the battery

DON'T take the smoke alarm down

DON'T cover it

If there is no smoke alarm or it doesn't work report it to your landlord

ELECTRICITY

The safe use of electricity assists in preventing house fires.

The improper use of powerboards and double adaptors can lead to fires.



A double adaptor or a powerboard plugged into another double adaptor or powerboard creates a danger of overloading the system. For safety, use a single extension cord rather than joining shorter cords. Leaving an extension cord coiled while in use or placing a cord under floor coverings can cause overheating.

Be careful to keep electrical appliances away from water.

A hair dryer takes time to cool down. For safety, allow this to happen on a non combustible surface before storing it.



Computers, monitors and TVs can overheat and cause fires even when not in use.



They should be turned off after each session. Good air circulation is necessary around TVs and videos. TVs should be turned off at the set, not only with the remote control.

Light globes can become dangerously hot.

It is dangerous to cover a lamp with any type of fabric. The best way to dim a lamp is to use a lower wattage globe.



HEATERS

It's nice to keep yourself warm during cooler weather, but remember that heaters are a major cause of house fires.

- Read and follow your heater's operating instructions
- Keep all clothes and curtains at least one metre from the heater
- Turn off all heaters before you leave your room or go to bed
- Before you go to bed at night or leave your home, ensure that all heaters are turned off at their power source and that all fires are extinguished



CANDLES, OIL BURNERS AND CIGARETTES

Candles, oil burners and cigarettes can all be dangerous fire hazards.

- Don't smoke in bed
- Dampen cigarette butts before putting them in the rubbish
- Make sure your candles are on properly designed candle holders
- Don't leave your room when a candle or oil burner is alight
- Don't go to sleep when a candle or oil burner is alight
- Don't put candles or oil burners near windows; be careful, curtains can catch fire easily



PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

In a Fire:



- Get down on the floor and crawl to the door
- Get out of your room
- Close the door – this prevents smoke and fire from spreading
- Alert others
- When outside stay out
- Call **000**