



FACT

Fires can and do occur in unoccupied houses and units while people are away taking a break. Simple precautionary steps before you leave on holidays may prevent a fire, or minimise its impact on you and your home.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME WHEN YOU ARE GOING AWAY ON A HOLIDAY?

Before leaving your home for an extended period the Fire Services recommend that you:

- Consider switching off and disconnecting non-essential electrical appliances and IT equipment.
- Test your smoke alarms and change batteries if required to ensure they still function.
- Let a neighbour or family friend know of your whereabouts and contact details. Ask them to watch your home and to notify the Fire Service on '000' if your smoke alarms operate.
- Ensure that any electrical items you decide to leave on continuously, or on timer circuits, are in good working order.
- If you live in a bushfire prone area, prepare your home properly before you leave; Refer to Bushfire Fact Sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Ensure that any lights you have leave switched on are in a safe location away from combustibles such as curtains and are of a correct wattage to prevent overheating.
- Switch off and empty clothes dryers before you leave.
- Close all internal doors before you leave to help to contain any fire that occurs.
- Extinguish any incense, candles or oil burners.
- Take time to do a thorough final check of your home before your leave.

What else should you do to make your home fire safe?

Check out the following electricity providers websites for additional information:

<http://www.transgrid.com.au/>

<http://www.integral.com.au/>

<http://www.energy.com.au/ea/earetail.nsf.Content/Your+Home>



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:

www.fire.nsw.gov.au www.rfs.nsw.gov.au www.esa.act.gov.au