



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

SABRE SMOKE ALARM BATTERY REPLACEMENT FOR THE EILDERLY

Revised 27/04/2005



FACT

New South Wales Fire Brigades Statistics reveal:

1. The 65 years and over age group represents over 31% of all fire death victims.
2. The risk of fire fatality to people 65 years and over is nearly three times greater than that of the general community.

What is SABRE?

The SABRE (Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly) program is designed to support the elderly, residing in their own homes and that have limited domestic support*, to live independently and remain valuable assets in the community. The program sees the NSW Fire Brigades forming partnerships with other community organisations to assist senior citizens in the maintenance of their fire safety devices. Primarily their battery operated smoke alarms.

SABRE will also enable local NSWFB firefighters to provide safety advice whilst visiting the SABRE client's premises and to also get a better understanding of client needs.

What are the benefits of the SABRE Program?

The SABRE Program will enhance community confidence, quality of life and safety by minimising the impact of emergency incidents upon one of the most 'at risk' groups in the community. The SABRE program is designed to increase awareness and provide education to the elderly to save both life and property.

SABRE will continue the NSWFB's commitment to providing a quality service to the community by:

- Saving life and reducing the number of injuries caused by fire
- Minimising property damage at fires
- Promoting fire prevention, safety and education
- Increasing the NSWFB standard of service to the community
- Ensuring effective and early response to incidents
- Empowering the workforce to achieve excellence and professional satisfaction

What else should I know if about SABRE?

- This Fact Sheet should be read in conjunction with Fact Sheets # 11 Domestic Smoke, # 12 Home Escape Plans, # 14 Seniors Winter Fire Safety-Checklist and # 21 Senior's Fire Safety.
- SABRE clients are asked to contact their local NSWFB station at intervals based on the type of battery being installed (9 volt lithium batteries 10 years, Alkaline batteries 2 years and Carbon batteries annually) or if the smoke alarm chirps earlier indicating a low battery level.

NOTE: Limited domestic support means those persons without family, relatives or friends who are able to assist. The NSWFB installs the clients smoke alarm or batteries at no installation cost.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NSW FIRE BRIGADES STATION or visit: www.fire.nsw.gov.au

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Remember that smoke from a fire will make you confused and that you cannot see in smoke.
- When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will in fact put you into a deeper sleep.
- Only ever use fuses of recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch.
- Home fire safety is important for the whole family and preparation can prevent a tragedy.

