



MEDIA RELEASE

Smoke alarms save lives

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The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is reminding Canobolas Zone residents to check their smoke alarms following several house fires in the local area.

NSW RFS Superintendent David Hoadley said local brigades are concerned that some people still do not understand the importance of having working smoke alarms in their homes.

"We've seen how smoke alarms can save lives and sadly in some cases where alarms have not been active people have lost their lives in house fires," Superintendent Hoadley said.

"Smoke alarms and a home escape plan can give you the early warning and crucial moments needed to safely escape a fire.

"Only working smoke alarms can alert you and your family, so it is vital that you test your smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries annually."

The NSW RFS and Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) recommend all residents change their smoke alarm batteries at the same time they wind their clocks back at the end of Daylight Savings.

Anyone who hasn't changed their smoke alarm batteries in the past year should do so as soon as possible.

"All Canobolas Zone residents should take just a few minutes this weekend to test their smoke alarm and check the batteries, to increase their family's chance of surviving a house fire," Superintendent Hoadley said.

"The cooler months are the deadliest time of year for house fires in Canobolas Zone, as people spend more time indoors using heating, lighting and electrical appliances.

"There are two main types of smoke alarms available – photoelectric and ionisation, it's important that everyone has sufficient smoke alarms in their home and ensures they are regularly checked.

"Whilst these alarms are both are in line with Australian Standard AS 3786, research demonstrates that photoelectric alarms appear to provide a faster warning for detecting smoke, and may increase the opportunity for early warning," said Superintendent Hoadley.

"A house fire can strike at any time and a working smoke alarm could mean the difference between life and death for your family."

Contact your local fire brigade for more information about home fire safety or go to

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

