



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

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Greetings everyone,

Winter is now upon us and that brings some relief from the worry of bushfires. However, looking at Western Australia makes one wonder if we can ever be complacent. WA has been hit by late May bushfires and now severe storms. In the Albany area two fires are still burning whilst there are storm warnings current.

Up here in the mountains we are all needing to keep warm. Fire & Rescue NSW have already begun to remind us that too many lives and properties are being lost through home fires. The following information can be found on the RFS website so please share it if you can. There is quite a lot to read but it is all pertinent. As an example I found that somebody in *my* household had inadvertently covered the gas vent with a synthetic blanket!

Home fire safety

“House fires can happen at any time of the year. Just like bush or grass fires, the key to surviving a house fire is being prepared.

There are some simple steps you can follow to reduce your risk of a fire in your home:

- Most importantly, have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test them regularly. Change the battery at least once every 12 months.
- Make sure you and all your family know two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- Never ever leave cooking unattended.
- If you have a fireplace in your home make sure the chimney is clean.
- If you have a fireplace always place a screen in front of it when in use.
- Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- Take care to keep curtains, tablecloths and bedding away from portable heaters.
- Keep wet clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.
- If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- Only use one appliance per power point and switch off at the power point when not in use.
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed. Never leave candles or any other open flames unattended.
- Always handle candles or any other open flame with care.
- Store matches or lighters in a secure place not accessible to young children.

- 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.
- If you have escaped from a home fire, remember once you get out stay out and dial Triple Zero (000).
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check.
- Only ever use fuses of recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch.

For more information on making your home safer from a house fire, download the Is Your Home Fire Safe Fact Sheet or visit the Fire and Rescue NSW Home Fire Safety website.”



Local Brigades at Work

Last Friday F&R NSW and two local RFS Brigades attended a fire at Sugarloaf Timber Mill in Megalong Valley. A fire lit for warmth inside the shed got out of control and set fire to the contents. The fire was brought under control before any major damage was done to the structure. The photo shows both agencies working together to tackle the situation.

Mount Victoria Great Train Weekend

On a completely different note, I would like to thank the HUFF volunteers who came forward to assist with this wonderfully successful event.



Mount Victoria certainly came alive over the weekend of 26-27 May when we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of *The Great Western Line* to Mount Victoria and the opening of its beautiful

station. For those of you who came along
I'm sure you will agree.

HUFF Volunteers, Willow and Penny, 'pretty in pink'.

Regards, Mina