

Smoke alarms and **escape plans**

- Check your smoke alarms are all working
- You need one in your living room and one in every sleeping area
- Visit www.escapemyhouse.co.nz to create an escape plan online
- Establish two exits and a safe outdoor meeting place
- Talk through your 3-step escape plan with your household and anyone staying at your place
- Please check on your neighbours if it is safe to.

Register for a free Home Fire Safety. Visit at www.fireandemergency.nz/hfsv or phone **0800 693 473**.

For more disaster recovery information, visit your local Civil Defence website or Facebook page.

Stovetop and **gas cooking**

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand
- Do not leave the room while cooking. If you need to, always turn off the stove or cooker first
- While cooking, keep curtains, tea towels, and other flammable items away from the area
- Always use gas cookers outdoors where possible
- Place cooker on a flat, stable, heat-resistant surface
- If using gas indoors, make sure you are in an open and well-ventilated room.

BBQ's, generators, and **patio heaters**

- Make sure you use BBQ's, generators, and patio heaters outside with adequate ventilation
- Do not use outdoor gas appliances as indoor heat sources or to dry damp homes
- Do not leave BBQs or heaters unattended while in use
- Ensure gas connections are tight and in good condition
- If using a petrol or diesel generator, make sure it's outside in a well-ventilated area
- Keep generators from anything that can catch fire
- Turn generators off and let them cool down before adding fuel.

Candles and oil lamps

- Use torches and battery-powered lights where possible. Avoid using candles and oil lamps
- If you don't have access to torches or they go flat, be aware of the extra risks of using candles
- Always place candles on a flat heat-resistant surface and firmly in a holder
- Keep candles away from anything that could catch fire like curtains, furniture, or clothing
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets
- Put candles out when you leave a room, and before you go to bed.

Disposal of rubbish

- Your council has rules for correct disposal of general and electrical rubbish, silt, and other material
- Please dispose of damaged battery powered or electrical items safely
- Paper, wood, and vegetation may be burnt, depending on council regulations
- Do not light fires if it's hot, dry, or windy
- If you are planning to light a fire, check conditions first at www.Checkitsalright.nz
- You might need a permit, depending on your location and the season
- Do not burn rubbish piles bigger than 3m x 3m as they can rapidly get out of control.

Electrical devices

- If you're in a power cut, prepare for your power coming back. Make sure light switches, power outlets and appliances are switched off
- Check electrical items for any damage before using
- Electric and battery-powered items that have been exposed to water should be considered damaged
- Keep damaged items in a heat resistant container, away from anything that can catch fire
- Charge electronic devices on a hard, flat surface.



After an emergency

be aware of the additional

fire risks

at home

