



**FIRE**  
**EMERGENCY**

NEW ZEALAND

# During a power outage it is important to be aware of the additional fire risks in your home



## **GAS STOVE TOPS**

- Don't leave the room when cooking. If you have to, always turn off the stove first. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand.
- Keep curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and any flammable items well away from the cooking area when you're cooking.

## **GAS COOKERS**

- Place it on a flat, stable, heat-resistant surface and make sure you are in an open, well-ventilated room.
- Keep curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and other flammable items well away from the cooking area.
- Don't leave the room when cooking. If you have to, always turn off the gas cooker first. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand.



## **ELECTRICAL DEVICES**

- To prepare for your power coming back on, make sure all light switches, power outlets and cooking appliances are switched off.
- Always check for damage before using electronics, if they are damaged dispose them safely.
- Charge electronic devices on a hard, flat surface.



## **CANDLES AND OIL LAMPS**

We recommend using torches and battery powered devices wherever possible to reduce risk. Avoid the use of candles and oil lamps if possible. If you don't have access to torches, or they run out of battery, be mindful of the risks candles pose to your home.

- Always place them on a heat-resistant surface and firmly in a holder.
- Keep them away from anything that could catch fire like curtains, furniture or clothing.
- Keep them out of the reach of children and pets.
- Put them out before you leave a room and before you go to bed.



## **SMOKE ALARMS AND ESCAPE PLANS**

With wide spread flooding across the country, some households may have relatives or friends staying with them.

- Check all your smoke alarms are working. It is important to have one in every bedroom/ sleeping area and living room.
- Talk through your escape plan with your household and anyone that may be staying with you. Remember to have two exits and a safe meeting place in case of an emergency.

**Please check in on your neighbours if it's safe to do so.**

**For information on the current emergency situation visit your local Civil Defence website or Facebook page**