



Media Release

Keeping warm could kill you!

As winter looms, days shorten and the nights chill up, one of life's sweet pleasures is to create a cosy environment by lighting the fire or turning the heater on. The ensuing warmth helps us relax and often, drift off to sleep – all very normal and nice.

Soon we will be hearing the seasonal news stories of house fires and associated deaths which could simply be avoided by the installation of smoke alarms.

“Smoke alarms are intended to detect smoke before it reaches the sleeping occupants of a building,” explained Council’s Manager of Regulatory Services, Mr Matthew Patterson. “In fact it is compulsory to have smoke alarms installed on or near the ceiling of every storey in residential buildings. And of course, regular battery replacement is vital.”

“Unattended candles, heaters and fires are common culprits but overloaded power points plus faulty appliances and wiring are also common causes,” he added. “Be careful to not have heaters too close to flammable fabric, be it clothing, bedding or furnishing. It’s also important to ensure servicing of wood heaters and associated flue systems are up to date. Regular servicing reduces the fire risk caused by creosote accumulating in the flue and ensures the heater operates as efficiently as possible.”

The Building Regulations 2006 require alarms to be connected directly to the consumer power mains as well as having a battery back up in all residential buildings built since August 1997.

For further information on the correct installation of smoke alarms please call South Gippsland Shire Council on 5662 9200 or go to www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

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