



12 June 2009

MFB reminds Victorians to dial Triple Zero in case of emergency

Following a fatal house fire over night, the MFB is reminding all Victorians to call Triple Zero (000) as soon as possible in the event of fire.

The renewed call comes after a wheelchair-bound woman died in a Hampton East house fire. The cause of the fire is being investigated, and it is yet to be determined if smoke alarms fitted at the premises were working properly.

MFB Commander, Community Education, Frank Stockton said, now that winter has arrived; people should be reminded of the causes of fire in the home. The three main causes are associated with cooking, heating and electrical appliances

“Although there has been a decrease in house fire deaths in the Metropolitan Fire District over the past year, one death is one too many. 2007-2008 there were 11 fatalities; this financial year 4 people have died in house fires around Melbourne.”

“The community must work together to ensure all Victorians remain safe from fire this winter. Call Triple Zero (000) as soon as possible if you suspect a fire in your home or in your neighbourhood and ensure you have a working smoke alarm,” he said.

The MFB recommends the following checklist for Victorians to avoid a house fire this winter:

- never smoke cigarettes in bed
- ensure your smoke alarm is working
- never leave cooking unattended
- always keep clothing at least one metre away from all heaters
- have a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen
- keep candles away from curtains or flammable material and never leave them burning unattended
- have a fire escape plan in place
- ensure all electrical appliances are in good working order

More information on winter fire safety can be found at www.homefiresafety.com.au and www.mfb.vic.gov.au.

For more information or to arrange an interview with Commander Stockton, please contact:

Jessica Warne, MFB Media and Communications

0400 919 778