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ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY WITH HOME FIRE SAFETY

In 2019, 476 residential structure fires occurred in Western Australia, many of which could have been prevented. As house fires are more common during winter, now is the time to engage and educate the community on actions they can take to reduce the risk of fire in the home.

Research conducted nationally by the [Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC](#) into preventable home fire fatalities has shown vulnerable members of the community including the elderly, young children, and people with a disability are at greatest risk.

The research also showed that most fatal fires occur in winter and between midnight and 4 am. This is why having a working smoke alarm is essential.

While there are often multiple risk factors that contribute to an increased risk of home fire fatalities, most home fires are preventable, and the most common causes in Western Australia continue to be unattended heat sources.

Resources including social media graphics as well as media, social media and community engagement kits have been developed for volunteers and staff. They are available on the [DFES Intranet](#) and [Volunteer Hub](#). Volunteers and DFES staff are encouraged to promote the home fire safety key messages in their community to help reduce fires in the home.

For further information and resources about fire safety in the home and how people can reduce their risk, visit [Fire in the Home](#) on the DFES website.

The Community Preparedness Directorate is available to provide advice on community engagement activities and resources and can be reached via email at communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au.

If you have a story to share about career or volunteer personnel supporting the Home Fire Safety Campaign, please contact Media and Corporate Communications via media@dfes.wa.gov.au.

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