

Home Security vs. Fire Safety



We all like to feel safe in our homes but sometimes increasing home security can make it difficult to escape your home in case of a fire.

Each year, a number of residents encounter difficulties escaping from fires due to security measures and sometimes the delay results in fatality. CFA recommend a balance between home security and home fire safety.

Deadlocks are less about keeping burglars out of your home and more about stopping them from carrying out your possessions. When you're not home it's important that you use keyed deadlocks to keep the burglars from carrying your TV out the door but when you're home it is just as important not to lock you or your family in if there is a fire.

Security measures that can slow your escape from fire include, but are not limited to:

- deadlocks and/or multiple locks on external doors
- security grills and bars on windows or security screen doors
- keyed locks or roller shutters on windows.

Deadlocks

- only install dead locks that can be opened from inside the home without keys
- never deadlock a door when you are in the home. This can prevent you from escaping during a fire
- if you feel you must deadlock a door when you are home, leave the key in the lock
- have all deadlocks keyed alike.

Bars, grills, screens and roller blinds on windows

- windows installed with security devices should incorporate quick release mechanisms
- make sure that grills/bars and screens easily open outward from the inside to allow a quick escape
- make sure that everyone who lives in the home can operate security barred windows and doors
- if grills are key locked, the key should be kept near the lock.