



**MEDIA RELEASE – 2009**

## **FIRE SAFETY URGED FOR OLDER VICTORIANS**

The MFB, CFA and Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) are encouraging elderly Victorians and those who care for them to check their home hotspots this winter.

“There are many factors elderly people should be aware of that increase the risk of injury and death in the event of a house fire”, said MFB Commander Frank Stockton.

“These include medication, old or damaged heating and cooking appliances, living alone, together with frailty and balance problems.”

CFA Manager of Community Development Gwynne Brennan said that is vital for older Victorians to work together with carers, relatives, neighbours and friends to minimise the risk of fire in the home.

The MFB, CFA and ESV recommend the following checklist for older Victorians to avoid a house fire this winter:

- never leave cooking unattended
- always keep clothing at least one metre away from all heaters
- have a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen
- ensure your smoke alarm is working
- 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
- employ a gasfitter to regularly check and maintain gas appliances to avoid any risk of carbon monoxide poisoning

More information on winter fire safety can be found at the campaign’s official website, [www.homefiresafety.com.au](http://www.homefiresafety.com.au)

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