

The following articles are about house fires and smoke alarm use:

Article 1: <https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/-/smoke-alarm-saves-family-in-swan-hill>

Article 2: <https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/-/dryer-sparks-reminder-on-working-smoke-alarms>

### **Read the articles and discuss:**

- How did the fire start?
- Were there working smoke alarms?
- How could the fire have been prevented?

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# Smoke alarm saves family in Swan Hill

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27 June 2017

At 2.50am today (28 June) CFA crews were called to a house fire on Holloway Grove in Swan Hill. Residents woke to the sound of their smoke alarm and were able to leave the house safely through a window before calling Triple Zero (000).



Three CFA trucks carrying about 15 fireys from Swan Hill arrived at the scene to find the house well alight.

Swan Hill Captain Dennis Turner said the family was very lucky to escape as the fire had already spread through a large portion of the roof before the smoke alarm triggered.

“The main exit to the house was blocked due to the fire, so the family was forced to evacuate through a window,” he said.

“They were very lucky that they had a working smoke alarm because without one this incident could have been a lot worse.

“The fire appears to have started in the lounge room and spread through about 50 per cent of the house.

“Crews did a great job working together to attack the fire both internally and externally and managed to save half the house.

The fire was called under control at 3.15am.

Ambulance Victoria attended the incident, treating four people at the scene for smoke inhalation before transporting them to hospital.

Police were also required to attend.

A CFA fire investigator is on the scene today to identify the cause.

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# Dryer sparks reminder on working smoke alarms

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31 Aug 2017

On Saturday 19 August, 16 CFA firefighters worked tirelessly to contain a house fire that tore through a property in Mount Eliza.



Crews from Mount Eliza and Frankston fire brigades were called to the property on Millbank Drive shortly after 1pm.

The cause of the fire is unknown but believed to have started in the dryer.

The occupants, a mother and daughter, were alerted to the fire by their smoke alarm and were able to safely evacuate before crews arrived.

Mount Eliza Captain Andrew Whitehead said by the time the occupant was able to see the fire, the entire laundry was engulfed in flames.

“They were lucky to get out in time and reinforced the importance of working smoke alarms in homes. Understandably, they were both a little shaken but thankfully unharmed.

“We arrived shortly after the call was made to Triple Zero. The fire moved quickly and extended into the roof before we had arrived.

“With the assistance from the Frankston Fire Brigade we were able to bring the fire under control within 10 minutes.”

Andrew said it’s a timely reminder during wet weather about safe use of your dryer.

“We’ve been called to fires that have been caused by oily fabrics placed in dryers and lint filters which have ignited.

“It’s important to remember to clean filters and let your dryer complete its cool-down cycle before stopping.”

