



BE WARM. BE SAFE. PREVENT FIRES THIS WINTER.

As winter settles in and temperatures drop, it's natural to look for ways to keep warm and comfortable at home. However, the increased use of heaters, fireplaces and gas appliances can also raise the risk of fires if we're not careful. A few simple precautions can make all the difference in keeping your household safe this season.

► **Fire Safety at Home**

- Never leave fires, candles or open flames unattended.
- Always supervise children around fires, candles and matches.
- Keep a fire blanket and a suitable fire extinguisher in your kitchen. A fire blanket is especially effective for smothering flames on clothing or stovetops.
- Position heaters well away from furniture, curtains and other flammable items.
- Switch off portable heaters and gas or electric fires before going to bed.



► **Fireplace Safety**

- Ensure your fireguard is secure and correctly positioned at all times.
- Have fireplaces and chimneys inspected and maintained regularly to prevent dangerous blockages.
- Keep flammable liquids and materials well away from fireplaces.
- Ensure rooms are properly ventilated and never burn treated wood, as it releases toxic fumes that can be harmful.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach in case of emergency.



► **Equipment and Maintenance**

- Install smoke alarms in your home and ensure they are in working order.
- Test smoke alarms regularly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Check plugs and cables for any signs of damage, loose connections or exposed wires.
- Avoid overloading electrical sockets and extension leads.
- Inspect gas pipes and fittings regularly for leaks.
- Make sure gas cylinders are turned off and electric heaters unplugged when not in use.



► **Veld Fire Safety**

- Dry winter conditions in Gauteng significantly increase the risk of veld fires, which can spread rapidly and cause severe damage.
- Do not light fires in open areas — this is illegal and extremely dangerous.
- Never discard cigarette butts or matches on the ground.
- Avoid parking vehicles on dry grass, as hot exhaust systems can ignite fires.
- Report any veld fires immediately to the relevant authorities.

