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## **NORTHE URGES VIGILANCE TO KEEP YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE THIS WINTER**

The Nationals Member for Morwell Russell Northe has joined the call of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Emergency Services Peter Ryan in urging community members to be vigilant against fire in their homes this winter.

“The joint CFA and MFB Winter Fire Safety campaign is warning Victorians about the high fire safety risks this time of year when the likelihood of house fires can increase by up to 20 per cent.,” Mr Northe said.

“It is distressing that last winter across Victoria six people tragically lost their lives and there were 1,042 residential fires causing an estimated \$20 million worth of damage.”

“Unattended cooking remained the single biggest cause of domestic fires throughout the year with more than one-third of residential fires started in the kitchen.”

Mr Northe said the number of fires in bedrooms, caused by heating equipment, also increases dramatically during the winter months, while blocked chimneys can also be a hazard.

The Winter Fire Safety campaign would use a combination of advertising and educational materials that focused on fire prevention in the home.

“The CFA and MFB are asking everyone across the state to start their own winter safety campaign by being vigilant, planning ahead and checking that the smoke alarms in your house work; plan how you would get out of your house if there was a fire; and be aware of fire risks in the home.

“The CFA and MFB will be targeting key community groups including schools and maternal child health centres as well as vulnerable groups such as the elderly,” Mr Northe said.

### **Key points to remember:**

**Check your smoke alarms. Only working smoke alarms save lives  
Create a home fire safety plan and practice it regularly  
Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone**

For more information visit [www.homefiresafety.com.au](http://www.homefiresafety.com.au)