

# EmergencySAFE - MERNDA

Community Safety News from Mernda Fire Brigade

AUTUMN 2018



Welcome to next edition of our quarterly newsletter designed to help educate and inform our community about fire dangers and other emergency situations all year round.

## SMOKE ALARMS

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE**

After a few recent turnouts to homes with Smoke Alarm issues and with daylight savings coming to an end over the Autumn period, we have a few simple messages for all Mernda residents.

One of the simplest ways to help protect your family if you are unlucky enough to have a fire situation at home is to have working smoke alarms. It is a legal requirement that your home has smoke alarms that are checked and working.



### Daylight Savings Ends

Before we know it, March will be over and so will the Daylight Savings Period in Victoria. This March 31<sup>st</sup> (Easter Saturday) when you change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries, give the units a dust and test their functionality.

### Ten Year Lifespan

Many people are unaware that Smoke Alarms, regardless of model or power source, need to be replaced with new units every ten years. Smoke Alarms are designed for a ten-year life span and may start giving false alarms or give no alarms after this time.

Take the opportunity over the next few weeks to get up and check your alarms for their date of manufacture and arrange replacement alarms if needed. Remember that most smoke alarms in your homes will be hardwired in if the home was built after 1997 and you will require an electrician to change the units.

CFA & MFB recommend the use of Photoelectric Smoke Alarms that are checked regularly and replaced every ten years.



Over 40 per cent of home fires start in the kitchen, with unattended cooking being the leading cause of preventable house fires (493 last year). Preventing a fire comes down to simple things like being aware of what distracts you when you're in the kitchen and setting a timer so you don't forget about what's on the stove. We encourage everyone to pay attention in their kitchen; appliances should be clean, free from built up grease and children must always be supervised.

For more home fire safety information visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire)

## SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN



### EASTER EGG HUNT

Our biggest event for the year is happening on Saturday March 31st. Mernda CFA & Whittlesea SES are teaming up to bring you Mernda's Own Easter Egg Hunt again with all profits from the event going back to your local volunteer emergency services. Details are available on our Facebook page and you can book tickets @ <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=344319&>.



### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Come down and visit us on Monday Nights from 7pm - 8pm or Sunday Mornings from 9am – 11am.