

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Cigarette fires spark warning

Saturday, 16 July 2011

Two house fires believed to be caused by cigarettes in Adelaide's north overnight have prompted a home fire safety warning from the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS).

At about 6.40 this morning, MFS crews responded to a house fire at Elizabeth Vale where firefighters rescued a man from the burning home.

The man was transported to hospital by SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) paramedics, where he was pronounced deceased.

MFS and SA Police Fire Cause Investigators have determined that a cigarette is the probable cause of the house fire, which left a damage bill of \$80,000.

Last night, MFS firefighters responded to a \$20,000 fire in the laundry of a home at Elizabeth Park. Investigations indicate the fire was caused by a cigarette discarded in a household bin.

MFS Commander, Michael Morgan said the fires are a reminder to all about the dangers of smoking inside and incorrectly discarding cigarettes.

If you are a smoker or have smokers in the home, the MFS recommends the following home fire safety tips:

- Empty ashtrays frequently into an outside refuse bin ensuring first that all cigarette remnants and matches are extinguished.
- **NEVER** smoke in bed.
- **NEVER** leave lit cigarettes unattended.
- Keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children. Storage above adult shoulder height and out of sight is recommended.
- Provide deep, sturdy ashtrays.

The MFS urges householders to combine the above safety tips with reliable, working smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old and a Home Fire Escape Plan.

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

Further information for the public:

Call the MFS Community Education Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours.

Country callers 1300 737 637.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au