

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Make air conditioner safety a breeze

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

Ahead of consecutive hot days, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) reminds the public to have their air cooling equipment serviced by a professional.

In the past year, MFS and Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters attended 25 structure fires caused by air conditioners and evaporative coolers, with a collective property damage bill of \$780,000.

MFS Community Engagement Officer, Angelo Mastripolito, said poorly maintained electrical cooling equipment carries the potential danger of overheating and causing a fire.

“Now is the time to have air conditioners, evaporative coolers and fans serviced by a qualified tradesperson.”

“As we head into summer, it is vital to have air cooling equipment checked for faults, have evaporation pads and air filters cleaned and to make sure equipment is mechanically sound to reduce the risk of a fire starting.”

“Most importantly, never leave air cooling equipment running unattended while not at home, no matter how tempting it might be to come back to a cooled home,” MFS Community Engagement Officer Mastripolito said.

The MFS does not discourage the use of electrical air cooling equipment as it can be a necessary health requirement for the elderly or families with young children.

It is recommended to follow current government guidelines when scheduling maintenance with a qualified tradesperson to ensure the safety of you and your family.

More home cooling fire safety tips:

- Electrical cooling equipment such as air conditioners and evaporative coolers should be installed and regularly serviced by a licensed tradesperson according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Ask the tradesperson to check for faults, remove any build-up of dust or combustible material and ensure the equipment is in good working order.
- Before the start of summer is the best time to have your evaporative air conditioner serviced so that it is fully functional when the hot weather begins.
- Regularly clean or replace return air filters in reverse cycle air conditioners. If you live in a very dusty environment, you may need to clean filters more often.
- Watch for signs of your electrical cooling equipment overheating. Keep a spare, well maintained fan that can keep you cool while resting overheated cooling equipment.
- Keep portable electrical cooling equipment away from wet areas to avoid the possibility of electric shock.

For further information, please access our MFS Home Fire and Life Safety Fact Sheet on Home Cooling on the [MFS website](#).

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