June 2018

Dear Falls Creek Stakeholder

**Fire and Emergency Evacuation Planning, Winter 2018**

In 2017, in CFA districts, there were 1,588 preventable structure fires, causing more than $42 million in damage. On average, there are 3,000 Structure Fires in Residential Buildings across Victoria.

At Falls Creek in Winter 2018, CFA will again be providing a consistent fire safety message for alpine accommodation and workplaces. As with previous years, the large focus is on emergency evacuation management. This is to support the Falls Creek community and their respective premises to have ownership in premise led evacuation plans and procedures.

CFA will provide assertive leadership and support to premises to ensure local capability to evacuate and manage the welfare of displaced persons. However, CFA cannot do this alone, and will rely on collaboration with the Falls Creek community to take the responsibility and duty of care for all occupants within their respective alpine accommodation and workplaces.

Most fires in structures can be prevented by taking simple precautions.

**Prevent fires in your home or workplace –**

Heaters, chimneys, electric blankets, clothes dryers and faulty electrical equipment can become a fire risk, particularly if they have been sitting unused for a period of time. Also avoid charging electrical devices for extended periods of time, and do not overload powerpoints, to avoid the risk of overheating.

**Only working smoke alarms save lives –**

Without a working smoke alarm, you are:

* 57% more likely to suffer property loss and damage
* 26% more likely to suffer serious injury
* Four (4) times more likely to die in a residential fire than people with a working smoke alarm.

**Get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000) –**

Would your family and guests know what to do if a fire started in your home or workplace? Effective preparation and planning for evacuation can significantly reduce this risk. A known premise led evacuation plan and procedures will ensure that occupants are given the greatest chance survival in the event of an emergency. In addition, all alpine accommodation and workplaces should make collaborative arrangements with neighbouring premises, to facilitate the safety of evacuated and displaced occupants, and to ensure accountability for occupants can be made.

Any structure fire has the potential to harm guests and residents no matter how small or large the building. Compounding this risk is the likelihood that people are unfamiliar with their specific location, environment, density of accommodation and the harshness of the external environment should a building need to be evacuated.

CFA will provide all Falls Creek Lessees and Building Managers advice and assistance in creating a Fire and Emergency Evacuation Plan or review of your existing plan.

To support this commitment to community safety, if you would like to develop or review an Emergency Evacuation Plan, please contact Operations Officer James Wong at Falls Creek Fire Station on:

Phone: 03 5758 3642 or 03 5758 3479

Mobile: 0402 013 228

Email: j.wong@cfa.vic.gov.au

More information is also available on the CFA website:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home>

This is a free community safety initiative of CFA that is intended to support our mission of protecting lives and property for Victorians.

Yours sincerely



**Paul King AFSM** Operations Manager

District 24 (North East Region) Fire & Emergency Management

**Officer in Charge**

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