

Checklist

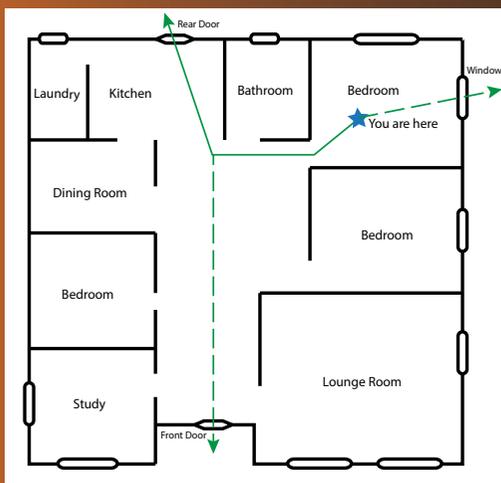
Smoke Alarms

- Test (using the test button) once a month.
- Clean the grill of your smoke alarm once a month using a vacuum cleaner or soft brush.
- Replace alkaline type 9-volt batteries every year - use an anniversary date to remember.
- Never paint smoke alarms.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services recommends that all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric smoke alarms.

Escape Plans

- Create an escape plan.
- Plan two ways out of every room.
- Pick a meeting place outside the home, such as the letterbox.
- Practise your fire escape plan regularly, at night, with the lights off, and on hands and knees.
- Store bags away from exit routes and doorways.
- In Budget Accommodation Buildings, the Fire Safety Management Plan is available.
- An evacuation diagram like this is in your bedroom.



Electrical Appliances

- Limit the use of electrical items depending on the number of electrical outlets.
- Only use portable cooking equipment in areas designed for that purpose. Do not cook in the bedroom.
- Ensure proper ventilation for clothes dryers and keep the filters clean.



Correct number of people living in the property

- More people equals more fuel load which increases the intensity of a fire.
- Multiple mattresses and other furnishings add to the fire load and make it harder to get out.

Building meets safety standards

- Exit doorways are not blocked with furniture or bags and all doors can be opened.
- An electrical safety switch has been installed.
- Early warning devices (e.g. smoke alarms) are installed and are working.
- The Fire Safety Management Plan is available.
- Emergency lighting is installed.
- Firefighting equipment (e.g. fire extinguisher) is available.



For more information, visit
www.qfes.qld.gov.au/buildingsafety/budget.asp.



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Fire Safety in Share Housing

*Be informed.
Be safe.*



Which situation do you most relate to?

Childers, Queensland

In 2000, a fire took hold in a hostel where young travellers, working in the harvest industry, were sleeping. Tragically, 15 young lives were lost that night.

The main reasons for the loss of life was the lack of early warning, the lack of a clear escape route and the inability for the occupants to locate exits in a smoke-filled environment.



Brisbane, Queensland

In 2013, near midnight in a western suburb of Brisbane, the rented home of seven students caught fire. A working smoke alarm woke some of the residents and they were able to quickly alert their housemates when an overloaded electrical socket caught fire. A neighbour called Triple Zero. When fire crews arrived minutes later, the entire home was well alight and the house was destroyed.

Everyone escaped the blaze unharmed with only the clothes they were wearing. Everything that the students owned was destroyed.

Why should you read this brochure?

A shared house is any residence with two or more people that isn't the family home.

The enclosed checklist is a guide to assist you with ensuring your safety and that of your property.

Common risk factors you should know

- » Overloading of electrical equipment and circuits.
- » Portable cooking equipment on unsafe surfaces.
- » Lack of smoke alarms (not enough or in the wrong place).
- » Overcrowding (too many people living in too small an area).
- » Blocked exits
 - Altered house layout;
 - Large furniture across doorways; and
 - Dead locks and locks on internal doors.
- » No fire emergency and evacuation plans.
- » Not being alerted by other housemates in emergency situations.
- » Candles left unattended.
- » Leaving cooking unattended.

The person on the other end will ask if you want Police, Fire or Ambulance help. Tell them who you want and they will put you on to them.



Police in Australia are not soldiers. They protect people and property from people who break the law.

The Fire Service helps when there are house fires, bushfires, car crashes and rescues.

The Ambulance Service helps people when they are really sick or injured and takes them to hospital.

What is a Budget Accommodation Building?

A Budget Accommodation Building is a type of building or share house where six or more unrelated people live and share toilet/bathroom facilities.

Budget Accommodation Buildings are defined in Queensland Legislation (Building Act 1975 section 216).

Budget Accommodation Buildings must comply with the fire safety standard to provide the occupants of the building with:

- » Early Warning
- » Emergency Lighting
- » Exits from the building
- » Firefighting equipment (if required)
- » Fire Safety Management Plan

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services officers can enter these types of buildings to determine if the Fire Safety Management Plan is being implemented in the building.

Fire Safety Management Plan should contain information including building information, allowable number of occupants, proposed training program, list of prescribed fire safety installations and the maintenance schedule, and a copy of the building plans.

If you have any concerns about the safety of a property, contact Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

or

email ShareHousing@qfes.qld.gov.au