



## Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for

# FIRE ISSUES



1. Make a mental note if there have been repeated bush fires in your area recently. 70% of NSW bush fires are lit deliberately.
2. Be aware of people acting suspiciously in your area. Record details such as their appearance, car descriptions & registrations. Contact **Crime Stoppers: 1 800 333 000**.
3. Contact the local fire service for help, assessing your own premise's fire risk and know how to protect it. Prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan, Emergency Evacuation Plan and Emergency Survival Kit for you and your animals. Know: When, Where, Who, What to take? Download the '**Bush Fire Emergency Plan**' App. Refer to the Australian Standard **AS 3959**: "Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas" and other fire services authority publications.
4. Contact your local Crime Prevention Officer for further strategies to reduce crime. [A Safety Audit of your home is available FREE on request from your CPO.]
5. Please be alert around schools during the school holiday periods and at weekends. Report any suspicious activity or groups of youths. Phone **School Security Unit: 1300 880 021**.
6. For businesses, include arson in your Business Risk Assessment Plan and include arson risk reduction strategies in your Risk Management Plan.
7. For businesses, are all your fire exits identified, accessible, unlocked and clear of boxes?
8. Know about total fire bans:
  - Check the RFS website, or phone RFS information line on 1800 679 737 to find out if there is a total fire ban in place.
  - Beware of sparks: BBQs, incinerators, welding, angle-grinders, cigarettes, etc.
  - Know the law: e.g. to use an electric/gas BBQ you must have available "an immediate and continuous supply of water".
  - Total fire ban & current fire danger can be found at: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).
9. Maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. If you underestimate the value of your property, any payout may be reduced accordingly.
10. Know your local ... [Why not google them?]
  - Community 'Farm FireWise' Groups (CFGs) supported by NSW Rural Fire Service. CFGs have planned strategies, build knowledge & understanding, are locally specific, and establish 'telephone trees' and "build strong social networks with neighbours"
  - Community Fire Units (CFUs) supported by Fire & Rescue NSW. "Being a CFU member is about preparation, prevention and protection from bushfires".
  - Neighbourhood safer places (NSPs) (NSW Rural Fire Service). "An NSP is a place of last resort for people during a bush fire & is an identified building or space within the community that can provide a higher level of protection."

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)

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TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)

1800 333 000

TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)

131 444

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)

9476 9799

TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP

106

SPEAK AND LISTEN

1 800 555 727

ENGLISH

11. 'Vandalism-motivated arson' is a spontaneous category involving peer pressure. Be aware of unusual behaviour, and look for matches, lighters, cigarettes, spray paint cans, hairspray, perfume, tissues, or flammable liquids. Most fires occur in the evening or at night, Friday or Saturday.
12. Be alert to any threat concerning fires. If a person threatens to set a fire, the threat should be taken very seriously. Contact **Hornsby Police Station: 9476 9799**.
13. Regularly monitor information on Facebook pages for the local police and Fire services:
  - 😊 Local Police: [facebook.com/KuringgaiPAC](https://facebook.com/KuringgaiPAC)
  - 😊 Fire & Rescue NSW: [facebook.com/frnsw](https://facebook.com/frnsw)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Arcadia): [facebook.com/arcadiarfb](https://facebook.com/arcadiarfb)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Berowra): [facebook.com/BerowraRFB](https://facebook.com/BerowraRFB)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Berowra Waters): [facebook.com/BerowraWatersRuralFireBrigade](https://facebook.com/BerowraWatersRuralFireBrigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Cherrybrook): [facebook.com/CherrybrookRFS](https://facebook.com/CherrybrookRFS)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Cowan): [facebook.com/CowanRFS](https://facebook.com/CowanRFS)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Dural): [facebook.com/DuralRuralFireBrigade](https://facebook.com/DuralRuralFireBrigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Galston): [facebook.com/Galston-Rural-Fire-Brigade](https://facebook.com/Galston-Rural-Fire-Brigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Glenorie): [facebook.com/Glenorie-Rural-Fire-Brigade](https://facebook.com/Glenorie-Rural-Fire-Brigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Hornsby): [facebook.com/Hornsbyrfs](https://facebook.com/Hornsbyrfs)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Service (Hornsby/Kuring-gai): [facebook.com/HK.RFS](https://facebook.com/HK.RFS)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Hornsby Heights): [facebook.com/HornsbyHeightsRuralFireBrigade](https://facebook.com/HornsbyHeightsRuralFireBrigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Middle Dural): [facebook.com/MiddleDuralRFS](https://facebook.com/MiddleDuralRFS)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Muogamarra—between Berowra & Cowan): [facebook.com/muogamarra](https://facebook.com/muogamarra)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Mt Kuring-gai): [facebook.com/MtKuringgaiRuralFireBrigade](https://facebook.com/MtKuringgaiRuralFireBrigade)
  - 😊 Rural Fire Brigade (Westleigh): [facebook.com/RFSWestleigh](https://facebook.com/RFSWestleigh)
14. Install hard-wired tamper-proof fire alarms. Consider a home security system that includes a monitoring service. Activated smoke detectors will automatically call Triple Zero.
15. Lock away combustibles, e.g. in the garage, or shed. (This also saves children's accidents.)
16. Check all smoke detectors are working. A good time to replace batteries is in Spring and Autumn, when you change the clocks. Check dates on fire extinguishers. Give powder ones a good shake. Buy a fire blanket. And practise using it.
17. Mark property (engrave or use a UV pen), log valuables and serial numbers, identify and photograph. Save onto computer disc & store off-site.
18. Beware plug-in room sprays, wheat bags, room heaters, Christmas tree lights, and other notorious fire risk products. Subscribe to NSW Fair Trading alerts concerning dangerous products and product recalls: [fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](https://fairtrading.nsw.gov.au).
19. Report all fires, whether big or small, or even if you think they are out. Phone from a landline, allowing the Fire Service to quickly map your location. At the incident, discreetly take note/photos of onlookers and their cars. (Arsonists watch their fires!)
20. Download the '*Fires Near Me*' App for updated information from the rural fire service. Consider the '*Emergency+*' App for your GPS at all times.

And... when travelling, please do not use the hotel's sprinkler system valve in the ceiling as a hook!

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: [au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/](https://au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/).

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: [WatchOut.org.au](https://WatchOut.org.au).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com).