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Nolan urges fire safety during the colder months

Member for Ipswich and Minister for Transport, Rachel Nolan MP, today urged residents in the local community to remember to stay “fire safe” at home during the winter months.

Ms Nolan said the number of house fires usually went up markedly during the colder months as Queenslanders started using heating appliances which hadn't operated in a long time.

“121 of the fires in the South Eastern region last year, occurred during winter,” Ms Nolan said.

“We often see fires at this time of year starting from faulty or misused heaters, dryers and electric blankets, so it's important people are careful with their appliances,” she said.

“When these devices are locked away for most of the year, it gives their joints and hoses time to decay or for dust to gather in motors which makes them unsafe.”

Ms Nolan said misuse of these appliances was another way to get into trouble.

“It's also dangerous to do things like warming clothes by laying them over a heater or placing it close to curtains or other fabrics.”

“This is basically providing fuel or an ignition source for a fire, with some fabrics only taking a few seconds to ignite.”

“It's also important that people ensure they never leave these appliances unattended while they are switched on.”

Ms Nolan said there were a number of precautions Queenslanders could take to safeguard themselves against a house fire including:

- Making sure smoke alarms are installed and well maintained
- Ensuring all electrical equipment that has been stored away in summer is checked by an electrician for faults
- Making sure heating devices are kept away from curtains, clothing or any other material
- Never operating heating devices when they are unattended
- Developing an evacuation plan with members of your household in case a fire breaks out

For further information on the QFRS education program and way to protect your home and family go to www.fire.qld.gov.au or contact your local fire station.

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