

YOUR FIRE SAFETY

The MFB wants everyone to have the best in fire safety.

We are also concerned because we attend over 14,000 false alarms each year. The majority of these false alarms come from automatic systems.

WHY THE CONCERN?

- It can reduce your fire safety if:
 - the MFB takes longer to respond to you because the closest vehicles are attending a false alarm near by.
 - you become complacent due to the number of false alarms from your system.
- It can cost you a substantial amount if charges are made for a false alarm attendance.
- There is a higher risk of accident for MFB and the public when we respond to unnecessary calls under 'bells & lights'.
- It wastes MFB resources and time and reduces the amount of community work we do.

**know how to manage your fire alarm system
and know your evacuation procedures**

**YOUR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM YOUR PROTECTION
MAKE SURE IT'S WORKING FOR YOU ALL THE TIME.**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate, the Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board and Strata Community Australia (Vic) make no warranties nor do they assume any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the information.

Your building has an automatic fire alarm system.
The detectors located in the following areas will send a signal direct to the MFB if they are activated.

- Common Areas - lobbies, halls, stairs, etc.
- Apartments / Accommodation
- Car Park
- Offices
- Retail Areas
- Café / Restaurants
- Other

Other areas in your building may have stand alone smoke alarms or other detectors that send a local signal.

Your Owners Corporation Manager is:



SCA (VIC)

Suite 106, 134-136 Cambridge St
Collingwood VIC 3066
info.vic@stratacommunity.org.au
www.vic.stratacommunity.org.au

Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board

456 Albert St East Melbourne VIC 3002
www.mfb.vic.gov.au

Fire Alarm Systems & False Alarms

A joint initiative from:

Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board (MFB) &
Strata Community Australia (Vic)



OWNERS & OCCUPIERS

ADVICE FOR PREVENTION OF FALSE ALARMS

The MFB is empowered by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act, 1958: Section 32D to levy fees and charges against false alarms.

This brochure provides basic information on fire alarm systems and assistance for preventing false alarms. Please note the advice for area/s relevant to you. Further information is available from our website www.mfb.org.au —> managing false alarms, or from our Helpdesk 9665-4688.

OWNERS

As an owner the MFB expects you to manage your property to ensure false alarms are not generated. This includes:

- advising occupants of their responsibilities.
- maintaining equipment & services at all times.
- ensuring the positioning and type of detectors in your property are appropriate.
- ensuring the fire alarm system is maintained to Australian Standards.
- ensuring you immediately forward any Entry Advice received from the MFB to your owners corporation manager if a false alarm occurs on your property. Prompt follow-up may be required by them to prevent further false alarms which may be charged.

OCCUPIERS

As an occupier the MFB expects you to act in a responsible manner to ensure false alarms are not generated. As a guide please refer to the table on 'Advice for Prevention of False Alarms'.

Recommended Actions	Common Areas	Apartments & Accommodation	Car Parks	Offices	Retail areas	Cafés & Restaurants
no smoking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
don't use the fire hose except for emergencies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
check with owners corporations manager if you wish to employ trades or contractors to work in your area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
do not open front door to vent cooking fumes or smoke inside apartment	✓	✓				
be aware that balconies may have smoke detectors fitted or under eaves	✓	✓			✓	✓
bbq's on balconies - keep doors and windows closed		✓				✓
regularly clean exhaust fans and keep in good working order		✓		✓	✓	✓
regularly clean toaster to remove crumbs		✓		✓	✓	✓
never walk away from cooking		✓			✓	✓
position portable cooking equipment away from detectors		✓		✓	✓	✓
always switch on your extraction fan over cooktop and oven		✓		✓	✓	✓
clean filters on range hoods		✓				✓
* change cooking extraction fans from recirculating to fully ducted		✓				✓
* hardwire the exhaust fan to the light switch or install motion sensors to activate the exhaust fan		✓		✓	✓	✓
* ♦ move detectors if too close to kitchen or bathroom or laundry areas		✓		✓	✓	✓
keep bathroom doors closed when showering and turn exhaust fans on		✓				
* install self-closing bathroom doors		✓		✓		✓
* install vents in bathroom doors for effective airflow		✓		✓		✓
observe height barriers and do not add to height on roof racks once inside			✓			
do not cause excess exhaust fumes from vehicles			✓			
laundry area/cupboard - if sprinkler head is installed do not close door when dryer operating		✓				

* Requires permission from owner ♦ Requires authorisation from Registered Building Surveyor. We also recommend advising your insurance company of changes to your fire alarm system.

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

These are heat sensitive and will activate for reasons other than a fire or emergency, such as:

- knocking or damaging head
- hanging items from head
- painting sprinkler head
- positioning heat generating equipment underneath eg. portable ovens, urns, etc.



SMOKE DETECTORS

These are the highest level of fire protection. They will activate for reasons other than a fire or emergency.

- dust
- candles / incense
- fumes - workmen & cleaners
- steam
- aerosols - hairspray, self tanning
- hairdryers
- cigarette smoke
- burnt toast
- fumigation
- knocking eg. when cleaning
- cooking fumes & odours

