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Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

Stay safe this winter

With winter now upon us, I would like to remind all Tasmanians of the common dangers associated with appliances used to stay warm.

Each year around 50 people across the country die from house fires, with many more suffering injury. Hot water bottles are also a concern, with more than 200 people treated for serious burns.

Heaters and fireplaces pose an obvious risk, but problems such as non-compliant insulation and unsafe products can also be hazards.

Tips for staying safe this winter include checking electric blankets, hot water bottles and other winter items are in good condition, ensuring you have a working smoke alarm, checking that any flues or chimneys are clear and not hanging washing near heaters or fireplaces.

More information can be found at: www.productsafety.gov.au/wellwinter or from Consumer Building and Occupational Services Tasmania who can be contacted on 1300 654 499 or at www.cbos.tas.gov.au