



## FACT SHEET

### No. 30 – SABRE: Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly

Version 02

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#### FACT

Statistics reveal that the elderly (65 years and over) represents over 31% of all fire death victims. The risk of fire fatality to people 65 years and over is nearly three times greater than for other persons.

#### WHAT IS SABRE?

The SABRE (Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly) program is designed to support the elderly, residing in their own homes that have limited domestic support\*, to live independently and remain valuable assets in the community. SABRE will also enable NSWFB fire-fighters to provide safety advice whilst visiting premises.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE SABRE PROGRAM?

- The SABRE Program will enhance community confidence, quality of life and safety by minimising the impact of emergency incidents upon one of the most 'at risk' groups in the community. The SABRE program is designed to increase awareness and provide education to the elderly to save both life and property.
- Saving life and reducing the number of injuries caused by fire.
- Minimising property damage at fires.
- Promoting fire prevention, safety and education.
- Increasing the standard of service to the community.
- Ensuring effective and early response to incidents.

\* Note: Limited domestic support means those persons without family, relatives or friends who are able to assist.

#### WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT SABRE?

- Residents who are unable to change smoke alarms batteries should contact their local fire station on an annual basis to get assistance. If your alarm 'chirps' earlier, this indicates the battery is flat.
- Firefighters will install the clients smoke alarm or batteries at no installation cost.
- Firefighters can provide smoke alarm safety tips.
- Remember that smoke from a fire will make you confused and that you cannot see in smoke.
- If you have escaped from a home fire, remember once you get out, stay out and dial Triple Zero (000).
- If a family member has hearing or mobility problems ensure that these are taken into account and if necessary that someone is assigned to help them escape.
- Home fire safety is important for the whole family and preparation can prevent a tragedy.



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:  
[www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) or [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)**

**PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT**

