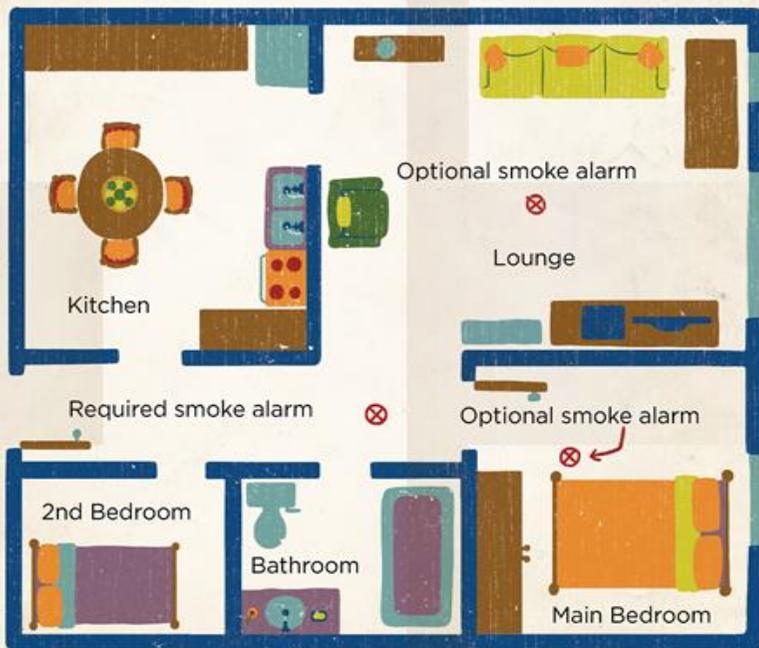


INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SMOKE ALARMS



Install a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area. ✓

Test smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. ✓

Teach children what your smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear it. ✓

Image Courtesy: Western Cape Government

National Disaster Management Centre

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Cooperative Governance
Traditional Affairs

DISASTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

SHACK FIRES



Smoke is a leading cause of death
in home fires

Smoke alarms save lives. Protect
your family and home from fire.
Hear the beep, where you sleep.

Fire problems in Informal Settlements

In South Africa, the risk of fires is influenced by a variety of socio-economic factors notably the rising levels of urbanisation which often results in informal settlements consisting of shacks built by highly combustible materials (frequently wood and plastic) and in close proximity to each other. The fire problem is further complicated by the living conditions characterized by narrow streets which are inaccessible to fire services vehicles, lack of firefighting water supply as well as the lack of street names which complicates endeavours to reach people in need timeously during emergencies in informal settlements. In order to address this, the NDMC has entered into a partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to reduce fires caused by illegal paraffin stoves in informal settlements.

In terms of the NRCS Act (No5 of 2008) and NRCS procedures, all importers and manufactures of regulated commodities are required to:

- Register with the NRCS
- Homologate/approve/register their products (for this, they obtain registration/homologation/LOA as proof of compliance) before they can import or manufacture
- Pay levies

Paraffin Stoves and Heaters

This compulsory specification covers the requirements for the construction, operation and safe use of non-pressure paraffin stoves and heaters primarily intended for domestic use with a gauge pressure close to the burner < 2 kPa, gauge and with a maximum heat rating of 4,5 kW for a single burner.

The Compulsory Specification for the Flame Producing Devices:

VC9089:2006.

SANS 1906:2006

Consumers must check the markings Requirements on the PRODUCTS:

The approval number (LOA) of stoves & heaters e.g. AZ/1906/2006/XXXX

Manufacturer's name and information

***XXXX – is a 4 digit unique number for the particular approved brand**

Tips on how to prevent shack fires



- Turn off all electrical appliances if power failure occurs in your area.
- Never overload wall sockets, as this might start a fire.
- Do not leave pots unattended on a stove when cooking.
- Ensure that your stoves and candles are well placed in a balanced surface and cannot fall over any time.
- Make sure you do not leave your home or fall asleep while your candles, heaters, braziers or paraffin stoves are still switched on.
- Educate children about the dangers of a fire and what they should do if they find themselves in a dangerous situation.
- Store matches and lighters up high, out of reach of young children.
- Do not leave your children alone in the house when these items (candles, heaters, braziers & paraffin stoves) are on as these might endanger them.
- If you have security bars on your windows or doors, make sure there is a release mechanism that works and that everyone in the household knows how to use them.
- Do not allow children to play with an open fire, especially during heating time.
- Make sure children never touch a space heater or put anything near it.
- Keep appliance cords, wires, etc. out of reach of young children.