

# Hoarding and fire risk\*



**Hoarding is when someone collects large amounts of items that may have value to them.**

Rooms or yards become cluttered and can no longer be used properly. For example, a bedroom can't be slept in because of the clutter.

People with hoarding behaviour live with a higher risk of starting a fire or being trapped. The main problems are blocked doorways and passages, and stacks of collected goods or clothing that can burn easily and for a long time. This situation increases the risk of injury, possible death and extreme property damage.

**Turn this page over for a checklist to help reduce fire risk.**

## For more information

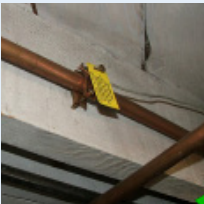
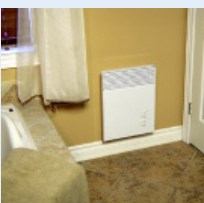
Visit [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au//HoardingSupport](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au//HoardingSupport) or scan the QR code.



\*Source: St Vincent's Treatment Response and Assessment for Aged Care (TRAAC program: Preston) July 2012.

## Fire risk reduction advice

To reduce fire risk you need to check that all fixed and portable appliances including power boards and extension leads are in working order and operating without clutter on top or near them.

| Actions                                                                            | Low risk                                                                                                                                                                | High risk                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Install smoke alarms and test them.                                                |       |       |
| Unblock exits and clear pathways in house.                                         |       |       |
| Check all water, gas, electrical wires and plugs are connected and operate safely. |   |   |
| Remove clutter from cooking areas; for example, stovetops.                         |   |   |
| Remove clutter from electrical items; for example, heaters.                        |   |   |