



Fact Sheet 10

Holiday Caravan & Camping Fire Safety

There are some rules that you may not be aware of relating to caravans in the Northern Territory. For example a **smoke alarm** must be installed on the ceiling of caravans. For further information go to www.fire.nt.gov.au and click on Territory Laws on Smoke Alarms.

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service recommend a simple **safety check** before you begin your travel to assist you to have a safer holiday.

When planning to use a caravan check for gas leaks using soapy water and always ensure that you **turn off any pilot lights before towing** or when the towing vehicle engine is running.

Check your smoke alarm is in good working order and consider having a **fire extinguisher** and **fire blanket** near the exit. **Check expiry dates** on your extinguisher. Develop a **fire escape plan** that considers all occupants of a caravan and; at camp sites and caravan parks, familiarise yourself with any fire routines in place or equipment installed there.

Ensure that all electrical and gas equipment fitted is **tested** and in good working order. **Gas cylinders** on caravans should be external, secure and with valves facing away from the van. Check gas connections after driving on country roads. Remember that **LPG is flammable**, heavier than air and may remain or collect in low lying areas for some time.

Do not park your car or tow vehicle in areas of high fuel load like **long dry grass**.

Keep **heaters** away from the internal fitting in caravans. Have a **portable radio** to keep updated regarding weather conditions and fire restrictions that may be in force.

Never leave **children** or **pets** unattended in a caravan or tent. Never cook or smoke in tents and consider buying a flame retardant tent.

Locate **campfires downwind** and a safe distance from any tents. DO NOT use fuel of any type to start or promote a campfire. Turn off any **lanterns** and extinguish campfires before going to bed.

Never leave cooking unattended in caravans or campsites and always secure any **matches and lighters**. On arrival at a campsite locate a safe refuge place in case of bushfire.

On arrival at a Territory Caravan Park ask the Park Manager for a copy of the **Emergency Management Plan** and know where your nearest **Fire Hose Reel** is located.

Make sure you are no closer than **3 metres** to any other van including annex. Know your way out of the caravan park in case of an emergency.

Call 000 in an Emergency