



## media statement

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### **Devastating fire caused by clothes too close to heater**

A Balga couple were left devastated last night when their house went up in flames, causing \$150,000 damage, after clothes were left drying too close to a heater.

Fire Investigation Officer John Haddon said every winter Fire and Rescue Service firefighters are called to fires started by heaters and wood stoves not being used safely.

“Many people know the dangers of clothes being left too close to a heater, but don’t think about this when the weather’s wet and their clothes need drying,” Mr Haddon said.

“Fires can start very quickly and can have a devastating impact on lives and homes, this couple has been lucky to escape the fire but they have lost everything.”

If clothes are being dried inside, they should always be at least one metre away from heaters and wood stoves.

Heaters should also be turned off when you leave the house and wood stoves should never be left unattended.

“It’s also important that you have a working photo electric smoke alarm,” Mr Haddon said.

“A working smoke alarm can provide valuable minutes in identifying a fire, helping to ensure everyone escapes the house safely.”

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