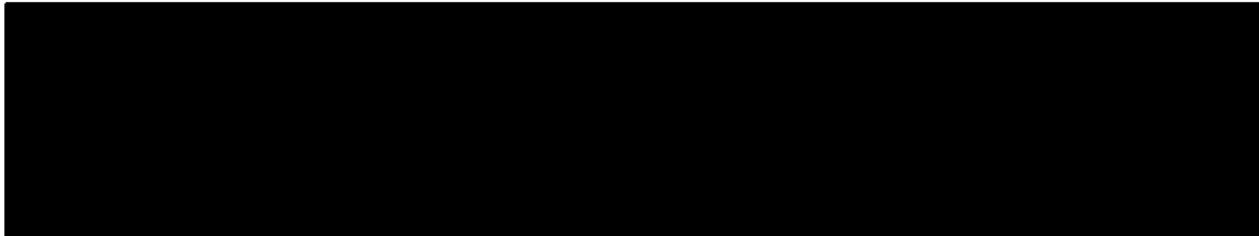




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5 July 2018



### Information Request – How and where house fires happen in Auckland

I refer to your official information request dated 31 May 2018 asking for the following information:

*How many house fires occurred in the Auckland region last year?*

*What months did the majority of them occur?*

*How many were preventable?*

*What was the biggest cause?*

*How much did the overall damage from all house fires cost?*

*How much did the damage from preventable fires cost?*

*What was the worst area?*

*Why was this the worst area?*

*What area had the least?*

*How many of the houses attended to had working smoke alarms?*

*What needs to change in order for less house fires to occur?*

I have attached a set of statistics in the year to 31 May 2018 which show:

- the number of house fires in Auckland per month in total and those where working smoke alarms were present
- the top 10 causes of fires in Auckland
- the 10 suburbs that have had the highest numbers of fires
- the suburbs where no fires have been attended by Fire and Emergency.

For our reporting purposes, we broadly classify structure fire fatalities as avoidable or not. In the 12 months to 31 May 2018, there were seven residential structure fire fatalities in Auckland, four of which have been classified as avoidable.

A research report titled *Improving the Fire Safety Knowledge and Practices of Vulnerable Groups*, was completed for the New Zealand Fire Service Commission in 2000. It identifies children under the age of five, adults aged 65 and over and people on low incomes as those most at risk of house fire fatalities.

This, and other reports that may be of interest to you, are available on our website at:

<https://fireandemergency.nz/research-and-reports/research-reports/>.

Our website also holds information to help families keep their houses safe.

<https://fireandemergency.nz/at-home/>

That information includes checklists for reviewing fire safety, tips for creating an escape plan, things to look for both inside and outside the home, and information on smoke alarms and other fire safety devices.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602. Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on Fire and Emergency New Zealand's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Deuchars', written in a cursive style.

Leigh Deuchars  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

encl

**Number of house fires per month:**

Month	Incident Count	Working Smoke Alarms Present
June 2017	43	17
July 2017	52	17
August 2017	34	8
September 2017	40	21
October 2017	47	21
November 2017	62	27
December 2017	64	29
January 2018	36	15
February 2018	42	15
March 2018	55	22
April 2018	60	21
May 2018	55	20
	<b>590</b>	<b>233</b>

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**Top 10 causes:**

Fire Cause Group Name	Fire Cause Name	Incident Count
Carelessness with Heat Source	Unattended cooking	132
Mechanical Failure or Malfunction	Other electrical failure	48
Carelessness with Heat Source	Careless disposal or use: cigarettes, ashes, embers	44
Mechanical Failure or Malfunction	Short circuit, earth fault	37
Other or Undetermined Cause	Undetermined	31
Deliberately Lit Fire	Suspicious	28
Deliberately Lit Fire	Unlawful	27
Carelessness with Heat Source	Heat source too close to combustibles	23
Operating Failure	Failure to clean	19
Not Recorded	Information not recorded	17
		<b>406</b>

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**10 highest suburbs:**

Suburb	Incident Count
Manurewa	29
Papatoetoe	26
Mangere East	24
Mount Roskill	21
Mangere	18
Papakura	16
Henderson	14
Mount Wellington	12
Massey	11
Ranui	11
	<b>182</b>

**Suburbs with no house fires:**

Suburb	Incident Count
A bany	
A bany Heights	
Anawhata	
Arkles Bay	
Army Bay	
Auckland Airport	
Auckland Central	
Awhitu	
Belmont	
Bethells Beach	
Big Omaha	
Browns Bay	
Chatswood	
Cornwallis	
Dannemora	
Dome Valley	
Drury	
Eastern Beach	
Eden Terrace	
Fairview Heights	
Farm Cove	
Forrest Hill	
Glendowie	
Glorit	
Golflands	
Grafton	
Hatfields Beach	
Henderson Valley	
Herald Island	
Highland Park	
Hillsborough	
Hobsonville	
Huapai	
Huntington Park	
Kaipara Flats	

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Suburb	Incident Count
Karaka	
Karekare	
Kaukapakapa	
Kawakawa Bay	
Kingseat	
Kingsland	
Long Bay	
Lynfield	
Mahurangi East	
Mahurangi West	
Makarau	
Mangakura	
Maraetai	
Matakana	
Matakatia	
Mechanics Bay	
Middlemore Hospital	
Milford	
Murrays Bay	
Ness Valley	
Newmarket	
Nihotupu	
Northpark	
Okura	
Okura Bush	
Omiha	
One Tree Hill	
Opaeke	
Pakiri	
Palm Beach	
Parau	
Paremoremo	
Patumahoe	
Penrose	
Pohuehue	
Port A bert	
Puhoi	

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Suburb	Incident Count
Redvale	
Riverhead	
Rosedale	
Rothesay Bay	
Saint Marys Bay	
Sandspit	
Shamrock Park	
Shelly Beach	
Shelly Park	
South Head	
Stillwater	
Stonefields	
Surfdale	
Swanson	
Tapora	
Tauhoa	
Tawharanui Peninsula	
Te Hana	
Tindalls Beach	
Totara Heights	
Totara Park	
Waiatarua	
Waiau Pa	
Waimauku	
Wairau Valley	
Waitoki	
Waiwera	
Western Springs	
Westgate	
Westhaven	
Whangaripo	
Whangateau	
Wharehine	
Whitford	
Woodhill Forest	

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