

Notes from the Housing Forum – Fire and Emergency

Facilitator – Lisa Coulter

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Introduction & Updates: Darren Aitken Fire & Emergency introduced.

Updates: RTA – Minister released media release ban on letting fees. Not banned at the moment. Submissions being requested and it may be passed this year or will be considered as part of the amendments near the end of the year. So it is happening but not yet.

Targeted review of the Residential Tenancies Act – not the whole act just targeted aspects of it. That will focus on security of tenure, (look to Scotland if you want information on the models Minister is looking at). Focus on fixed term tenancy as well. – Health Homes Guarantees Act - eight-week consultation starting End April beginning of May – smoke alarm insulation regulation at the same time as that there will be a discussion paper on the review of the Residential Tenancies Act re changes and submission on that which is also an eight-week period starting end of April beginning of May.

Question re Healthy Homes Guarantees Act: Act has been passed. A lot already done to create the regulations yet to be finalised. – Looking at insulation standards. Standards of temperature being capable of being achieved in housing.

Feedback of Survey accountability housing forum: Thanks all for answering the questionnaire.

- Venue and time suitable – let us know if any issues through the year.
- Appreciate depth of presentations and opportunity to ask questions.
- People would like to see updates
 - Updates MSD
 - Updates Housing Providers
 - Updates Tenancy Services (like they used to do)
- Requests for a variety of speakers and sessions – Themes will be addressed in relation to popularity and speaker's availability.
- Understanding of what is coming up. This will be sent with minutes if possible.
 - 20th June Social Housing Providers in the city.
- Groups needed cover room hire 7 hires to the end of the year please contact me projectsupport@tpa.org.nz if you can pay a room hire. Cost \$90 (includes gst)

Thank you to anyone for participating in forum, the time you take to come and your active involvement. I would also like to thank organisations who permit their staff to volunteer for the planning group and particularly Comcare who provide refreshments at the meetings

(The fire and emergency notes below form part of a PowerPoint presentation. There are gaps where slides were self-explanatory)

Presentation by Darren Aitkin Fire Risk Management Officer Fire and Emergency

Role in the fire and emergency services is that of a Risk Management Role. Part of Darren's role is to work with fire engineering and compliance space and bring that all together to get people out of spaces. Work right across the sphere from building design etc., concept designs from the firefighting perspective ranging from areas of logistics like purely where we going to park fire truck, hoses and fight fire. Then Evacuation scheme – how is that going to work for building occupants as a group. Seen buildings that comply to but difficult when it comes to emergency group evacuation. Best outcome. Very cost effective at design stage.

Daren presented a series of slides which he spoke to. Key concepts from slides included:

- At risk groups any group where greater risk of harm occurs than the general population (children, lower socio economic, Maori – rental properties, some geographic regions).
- Focus and target specific areas across the city later this year.
- Fire prevention systems – active passive systems, home evacuation, multi tenanted evacuation.
- Minimum requirements smoke alarms (rental properties) fire service will put alarms up for you. Fire and emergency thresholds higher than compliance (common areas halls bedrooms and living areas not hear kitchen).
- Programme can supply alarms in some instances Fire and Emergency will provide smoke alarms (most vulnerable).
- Fire service will install for free (currently) and check.
- Standards for smoke alarms are prominently displayed on alarm – (see heart on front – photo example attached to notes). TIP: Write down date when installed batteries and alarms.
- Currently working under old regulations Fire Services Act. 1st July this year we will be working under new legislation – will have the ability to go and look at risk and fire hazards on properties – problem we have private dwellings – constrained by the Humans Right Act. Currently have to do things by consent. Fire Service try not to give out tickets encourage people to make change. 1st July we may be able give tickets. Often community issues we come to are mental health issues and we generally try and support the person to get the help they need. One thing we will do in these situations e.g. hoarding - we will load the house with fire alarms (4/5).

Effective campaign. <https://www.escapemyhouse.co.nz/> please follow the link. Appreciate what happens in a house fire.

- Multi tenanted buildings – across all scales of buildings we can add passive systems (fire control doors) – getting people out and burnout. Active systems smoke detectors and sprinklers.
- Domestic sprinklers encourage especially for rural. Can take half an hour to get to rural fires. Preventative options. Applying relevant systems for functions.
- Wall linings designed for half hour – 7 minutes. to get to fire option to get to fire and put out. If fire has been burning undetected gives us some time to put out.

A series of questions and answers were around compliance, consents, evacuation schemes and discussion of London tower fire issues.

Discussion around retrospective legislation – older buildings older requirements. Risk management issues. Every building different.

Slide presented on regulations as per type of dwelling – when different systems required as per regulations.

Public education talks: Showing tools used for public education.

Members of the forum used the “escape my house” material to understand the speed of fire and life lost.

- Importance for kiwis to have an escape plan - evidence of what is needed for your escape plan. Solution to walk you through your home step by step to develop an escape plan – really successful programme.

Recap:

Lots of thing we can do – new solutions at the beginning, about having a plan, and when it comes to fire plan is gold. Run kids through an escape scenario for the house – they love it.

Scariest thing arriving at fire – no one at letter box. Where is everyone? Standard to use letterbox as the meeting place.

The session was finished with a series of questions and a demonstration of escape my house.

