

SMOKE ALARMS: help for seniors

Fire and Rescue NSW can replace smoke alarm batteries or smoke alarms for seniors in private rental (or their own homes) who don't have access to friends, family or neighbours to do this for them.

The Smoke Alarm and Battery Replacement (SABRE) is aimed at frail aged people aged over 65 years, people with disabilities and those who already receive community assistance services.

Eligible residents should contact their local fire station annually to get help. Alternatively, they can contact 1800 151 614. The service is free, but residents must supply the battery or smoke alarm themselves.

Fire and Rescue NSW says that over the past five years, one in three fire related deaths in NSW have been among the over 65 age group. The service says it is vital that seniors have working smoke alarms to provide early warning of a fire.