

Subject: Fire Protection - Please Read
Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021 at 9:48:33 am Australian Central Standard Time
From: Lee Walton
To: Diocesan Office
CC: Matthew Pearson, Joshua Mackenzie, zoe.creelman@cms.org.au, Matthew Vinicombe
Attachments: image001.png

Hi everyone

I have spent a few days focusing on our fire protection equipment (not smoke alarms) at properties managed by the Diocesan Office. Maintenance has been very haphazard to date. For example, I found a fire extinguisher in a Ngukurr property that had not been serviced since 2012 whereas it must be checked every six-months. I met with Jorge Marques of Fire Access Protection Pty Ltd to better understand our obligations. Here is the summary:

1. When firefighting equipment (eg fire extinguisher/blanket) is fitted, it must be checked/maintained by a qualified person at least every 6-months
2. The Diocese is not required to install fire fighting equipment in properties that have been leased
3. The Diocese is not required to install fire fighting equipment in properties used as staff accommodation (unless it is deemed a place of work) – I consider CMS housing, the Butler Flat and churches to be places of work
4. The Diocese is not required to retrofit fire fighting equipment to meet current standards if the property was built and approved under past legislation/regulations unless it has been refurbished
5. The Diocese has chosen to fit fire equipment in some older properties to mitigate the risk.

The properties that have/will have equipment are:

- Lot 355 Angurugu (Vinicombes)
- Lot 394 Gunbalanya (church)
- Lot 395 Gunbalanya (Pearsons)
- Lot 72 Ngukurr (church)
- Lot 73A Ngukurr (Wayne) – to protect the rest of the property
- Lot 73B Ngukurr (Zoe)
- Lot 73C Ngukurr (Butler Flat)
- Lot 1 Numbulwar (church)
- Lot 1 Numbulwar (Mackenzies)

We will not install fire fighting equipment in the Angurugu church or Minyerri church because they are open structures (no doors) with multiple egress routes, a high risk of vandalism/theft and a low likelihood that they would be used in the event of a fire.

The costs associated with checking fire equipment installed in remote locations are considerable. The expense is mostly because of the remote travel rather than the test itself. On advice from Access Fire Protection, I have decided upon a new approach. Over the next few months, I will replace most of our fire extinguishers to provide a standard installation. These are 2.5Kg, A:B(E), Dry Powder units. We will also install 1.8x1.8m fire blankets in kitchens (subject to points 2 and 3 above). We will hold spares in the Diocesan Office to enable a swap-a-go service. Access Fire will service the equipment in Darwin for \$10 per item instead of >\$1000 remotely. Obviously, this approach will not work for Groote where we will continue to obtain the service for GCC.

So . . Why am I telling you all of this!!!?

WHILST I WILL SWAP UNITS DURING RUOTINE VISITS, IF YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL TO A REMOTE LOCATION

BY ROAD, PLEASE ASK MARY OR ME WHETHER ANY FIRE EQUIPMENT IS DUE TO BE EXCHANGED. IF SO, WE WILL ASK YOU TO DO SO. IT IS A VERY SIMPLE TASK.

Please see me if you have any questions.

Regards

Lee

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