

22 December 2021

Civic Centre  
1061 Haupapa Street  
Private Bag 3029  
Rotorua Mail Centre  
Rotorua 3046  
New Zealand

RDC-1215734

Dear Sir/Madam

**BUILDING FIRE SAFETY REMINDER**

A recent fire in a local motel has provided a timely reminder of the danger fire poses to building occupants and the importance of fire safety systems in buildings.

With the holiday season upon us Council would like to take the opportunity to remind accommodation operators that you have an obligation under the Building Act to ensure that the use of your buildings are safe and users have adequate means of escape from fire. There are serious legal ramifications for failing to adhere to this requirement.

In relation to fire this highlights the need to ensure that all warning systems are in good working order and their operation checked regularly and that all passive systems such as fire separations are intact and able to provide the life safety protection they are meant to.

Buildings that have a compliance schedule will have an independently qualified person engaged to regularly check fire safety attributes in the building. In all cases it is the person controlling the premise that holds the responsibility for ensuring that the building is safe.

There is a list of [fire designers](#) on Councils web site should you require independent advice on means of escape.

As an accommodation provider you are also required to adhere to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) evacuation scheme requirements under separate legislation. Further information can be found on the [FENZ web site](#).



Darrell Holder  
Manager, Building Services