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Media Release

Help just happens

State Insurance helping to ensure fire safety for Clevedon Community

Following recent deaths from house fires over the holiday period that have dominated our television screens and newspapers, State Insurance are helping to prevent further tragedies.

State are providing 500 smoke alarms to the people of Clevedon, which will be installed by the volunteers from the Clevedon Fire Service.

In light of many tragic news stories that could be prevented or minimised by smoke alarms, State and the Auckland Polo Club are sponsoring a charity event on Sunday 25 January 2009, with all proceeds going to the Clevedon Fire Service.

"The Clevedon Fire Brigade, like many in New Zealand is solely operated by volunteers. Our job tends to be a frustrating one at times, with the lack of fire-safety precautions taken in households", says volunteer David Kidd.

"These smoke alarms will be installed by us around the community and are sure to save many lives. State Insurance and the Auckland Polo Club and have made a significant contribution to the service we provide, and the rural South Auckland area will benefit substantially."

The fire service says there were 3500 house fires last year and 75 percent of them did not have working fire alarms.

"The fire service supports any initiative to make smoke alarms mandatory in all houses. They're affordable, they're very effective and they can do so much to ensure the safety of people in houses," says Paul McGill of the New Zealand Fire Service.

State Insurance is showing its support of the Clevedon Volunteer Fire Service at their State Charity Polo Day. It will be a family day with some of New Zealand's best polo action. There will be mock house fires and fire safety tips from the fire brigade, a bouncy castle and plenty to do for all the family. Bring along your own picnic and gold coin for the donation entry.

Sunday 25 January 2009 from 11am

Auckland Polo Club, Fisher Field

Kawakawa Bay Road, Clevedon

About State

State has been providing New Zealanders with an extensive range of personal and business insurance services for more than 100 years. State manages 1.1 million policies on behalf of more than 460,000 New Zealanders. State is a business division of IAG New Zealand Limited, New Zealand's largest general insurer.

Ends.

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