



MEDIA RELEASE

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Two thirds of small businesses admit to lack of fire training

Nearly two thirds of small business managers and employees in regional and suburban areas of Australia have never been trained in how to use the fire equipment in their workplace, according to a recent survey conducted by Wormald.

In addition, more than half of the 210 small business respondents admitted that they were not fully confident about the correct way to handle the installed fire protection equipment.

“This is an alarmingly high percentage of people who would not know what to do in the event of a serious fire emergency,” said John Lynch, General Manager – Business Support Services, Wormald.

“The highest priority when a fire breaks out is to get the occupants of a building out of harm’s way. Trained staff can help this happen efficiently.”

“Additionally, fires can impact businesses with significant costs in damages and lengthy downtime, and in some cases this can be minimised if staff knows how to confidently handle the situation.”

The survey also found that 15 per cent said they weren’t aware of what fire protection equipment and systems were installed in their workplace.

Leading fire protection specialist Wormald is urging all small business owners to consider the issues they could face if their business experienced a fire, and prepare accordingly.

“A fire can have a devastating affect on a business, particularly a small operation. We recommend that business owners not only carry out a thorough assessment to identify the fire protection equipment and systems required but invest in training for their staff so that the measures in place will help if there’s a fire.

According to the survey results, only 19 per cent of employers rated the offer of training as a key factor

when deciding their fire protection needs, with the highest consideration going to cost, and service and maintenance second.

“A confident member of staff, able to respond appropriately in the event of a fire is an invaluable investment for a business.”

The majority of those surveyed tended to agree with these sentiments, with 78 per cent saying they felt they would benefit from more fire equipment training.

Wormald offers a number of training courses for businesses ranging from fire extinguisher and first aid training to more comprehensive warden training. For information about the training courses in your State, visit www.wormald.com.au/training or call 133 166.

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About Wormald

Wormald is Australasia's leading provider of fire protection solutions. Since 1889, it has designed, manufactured, supplied, installed and serviced fire detection and protection systems for a wide variety of industries, including building and construction, health care, military, government, leisure management, corporate, education and domestic. www.wormald.com.au.