

December 29, 2008

Happy New Year!!!

Lets all work together to ensure that 2009 is a fire safe year!



- ✓ **Prepare a home escape plan** - Fire safety in the home starts with how to get out of your home in an emergency. Review your home escape plan with your family on a regular basis.
- ✓ **Install smoke alarms** - It is the law to have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and in the halls near bedrooms. Don't forget to test them monthly, and change the battery at the same time that you change your clocks. Carbon monoxide detectors are also very important to have in your home.
- ✓ **Never leave cooking unattended** - Unattended cooking is a leading cause of house fires. Learn how to control small fires in the kitchen or other parts of the home. Keep a fire extinguisher within 10 feet of the stove on the side nearest the exit. Use the same precautions with outdoor grilling.
- ✓ **Take care with open flames** - Don't leave candles burning unattended or after going to bed. Keep them away from children and make sure they have sturdy candleholders. During power outages use flashlights and lanterns, not candles. Open your fireplace flue before lighting a fire. Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned regularly.
- ✓ **Don't burn trash or leaves** - Fire safety in the home extends to your yard and surrounding property. Intentional outdoor fires can easily get out of control.
- ✓ **Safely dispose of smoking materials** - Don't smoke in bed or when you are about to fall asleep. Use an ashtray and extinguish butts completely.
- ✓ **Teach children not to play with matches and lighters** - Keep matches, lighters, and fire-starting materials out of their reach.
- ✓ **Use electrical appliances safely** - Don't overload outlets and inspect cords for exposed wires. Replace old appliances for both increased energy-efficiency and safety.
- ✓ **Exercise caution with all heating devices** - Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials. Monitor their use. Have your central heating system inspected regularly.
- ✓ **Store flammable materials safely** - Many residents may be surprised to know how many common household chemicals are hazardous, flammable materials. Use approved containers. Keep materials away from children and away from ignitions sources such as pilot lights and open flames.

Have a happy and healthy 2009 from all of your friends at Safety First!

Stay Safe,

Julie Ineson