

# A p a r t m e n t

## SAFETY NOTES



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

JUNE 2010

### FIREWORKS BAN WORKING IN SPOKANE

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year of a ban on the sale and use of private fireworks in Spokane. Many landlords find it helpful to remind their tenants early and often that fireworks are not tolerated and the fines begin at \$513.



Individual use of ALL common fireworks has been illegal in the City of Spokane, Spokane Valley and the unincorporated areas of Spokane County since 1993.

In the ten years before 1993, we had an average of 104 fires started by fireworks just in the City of Spokane during the 9-day period of June 28 through July 6. During that same period, a total of 290 people were injured seriously enough from fireworks to require treatment in an emergency room or hospital. At times, 9-1-1 phone calls had to be “stacked” while dispatchers tried to find enough emergency responders for regular incidents, such as heart attacks, car crashes or seizures.



The complete ban on individual fireworks resulted from leaders and voters recognizing these predictable annual losses as unacceptable to the Spokane community.

The ban is working: in Spokane the average number of fireworks fires has decreased from 104 to 5 and injuries have been reduced from 29 to 5. But the nuisance factors (e.g. the noise impact on pets, neighbors who are elderly or sick) continue to be a problem throughout the community.

You can use the attachment to this newsletter to alert your tenants to fireworks laws in Spokane. Many people are still surprised to learn that the “big 3” of firecrackers, missiles and bottle rockets were outlawed throughout Washington and Idaho long before the 1993 ban. M-80’s and M-100’s are not fireworks: they are explosives.



Predictably, there will be at least 8,000 Americans treated in hospitals and emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries this 4<sup>th</sup> of July season. In fact, the simple “safe-and-sane” sparkler will cause a significant percentage of serious burn injuries. Sparklers burn at a temperature of 1200 °F! In recent years, more people have also bundled them together to fashion “sparkler bombs”. At that point, they become an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) and must be handled by the Police Department bomb squad because of the extensive damage they can inflict on people and property.

Most people in Spokane respect the ban on private fireworks and enjoy the large community fireworks orchestrated by licensed pyro-technicians at Riverfront Park and other public sites.

If you have questions about fireworks or the ban, please call (509) 625-7058. If you need to report a violation on or near your property, call Crime Check at 456-2233.

You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at [jdoherty@spokanefire.org](mailto:jdoherty@spokanefire.org) or by calling 625-7058.

Access this edition of Apartment Safety Notes as well as back issues at [www.spokanefire.org](http://www.spokanefire.org) under “Prevention”.

## NEW DATE ON CO DETECTOR INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT: 7/1/11

In our January Apartment Newsletter, we reported on the new WA code requiring that carbon monoxide alarms be installed in residential properties. January 1, 2011 is the required date for CO alarm installation in all new residential construction. However there is a change in the “due date” for existing rental dwellings to JULY 1, 2011 (from January 1, 2013 as first written in the legislation).

For more information, check the State Building Code Council website at [www.sbccc.wa.gov](http://www.sbccc.wa.gov) and [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov) (for WAC 51-50-0907, WAC 51-51-0315 and WAC 51-54-0900). A copy of the memo on carbon monoxide detectors from the SBCC is attached to this newsletter mailing.

## SUMMER SAFETY: DROWNING PREVENTION

You can get free “Designated Child Watcher” whistle and tag sets from Spokane Regional Health District by calling 324-1560 x 4.

There are coupons for a 25% price break on life jackets through BIG 5 Sporting Goods and Spokane Regional Health at [www.srhd.org](http://www.srhd.org) under *Health Topics A-Z: Drowning Prevention*.



Be sure to visit our website at  
[www.spokanefire.org](http://www.spokanefire.org)

There you will find links to our blog, Facebook,  
Twitter and YouTube pages!





STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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To: Builders, Landlords, Local Building and Fire Officials and Other Interested Parties

From: Staff, State Building Code Council

Subject: New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements in Residential Occupancies

On July 1, 2010 the Washington State Building Code will go into effect with state amendments adopted during the rulemaking process in November 2009. Certain amendments were adopted related to requirements for installation of carbon monoxide alarms in residential settings. Amendments were adopted in the Building Code, Residential Code and Fire Code requiring installation of carbon monoxide alarms as follows:

- By January 1, 2011 carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in all new residential construction in R-1, R-2 and R-3 occupancies.
- By July 1, 2011 carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in existing dwelling and sleeping units in R-1, R-2 and R-3 occupancies.
- Owner-occupied Group R-3 residences legally occupied before July 1, 2010 are exempt from these requirements under the Building and Fire Code.
- Owner-occupied detached one-family dwellings legally occupied before July 1, 2010 are exempt from these requirements under the Residential Code.

The alarms must meet the following requirements:

- Alarms must be located outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom.
- Where a tenancy exists, the tenant must maintain the CO alarm as specified by the manufacturer, including replacement of the batteries.
- Single station carbon monoxide alarms must be listed as complying with UL 2034, and installed in accordance with the code and the manufacturer's instructions.

Please visit our website at [www.sbcc.wa.gov](http://www.sbcc.wa.gov) for more information on this topic. You may also review the amendments at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov); see WAC 51-50-0907, WAC 51-51-0315, and WAC 51-54-0900.



# PUBLIC NOTICE AND WARNING

**ALL common fireworks are ILLEGAL in Spokane County and the Cities of Spokane, Spokane Valley, Millwood, Cheney and Liberty Lake.**

**Since 1993, NO person can BUY, SELL or USE any type of common fireworks in these areas of Spokane.**

**Fines range from \$513 to \$1,000 for each violation.**



**FIRECRACKERS, BOTTLE ROCKETS and MISSILES are NOT ALLOWED IN ANY PART OF WASHINGTON STATE *(with the exception of some Indian Reservations in areas designated by the Tribal Council).***

- ✓ **Possession of firecrackers, bottle rockets and missiles is illegal throughout Washington State. They can be confiscated at any time.**
- ✓ **In addition to the fines and court costs, persons who start fires with fireworks are liable for restitution of damaged property and for recovery of Fire Department response costs.**
- ✓ **If it has to be lit, it is an illegal firework in Spokane. SPARKLERS are illegal: they burn at 1200 ° F and cause serious injuries.**
- ✓ **PARENTS are responsible for damages associated with their children using fireworks.**