

# A p a r t m e n t

## SAFETY NOTES



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

December, 2011

### Snow



### Stoppers

To those who don't have to get out into the traffic, a major snowstorm can seem like a "winter wonderland". For emergency responders and managers concerned with safety, there are some practical weather concerns!

Keep the fire lane cleared for emergency vehicles. Recognize that fire engines responding to your apartment need room to maneuver. If you manage a high rise, know that a ladder can't be raised without having more than a 20 foot width just to accommodate the rear outriggers needed to keep the truck stable!

Keep the fire hydrants near your building cleared of snow. In a fire emergency, quick access to hydrants means water gets to the fire before more damage is done. Recognize the liability issues when sidewalks are covered in snow or ice. Determine ahead of time who is responsible for shoveling, plowing or de-icing. In rentals with four or less units, the lease agreement may specifically indicate the tenant is responsible for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways.

Consider the accessibility concerns of tenants who use wheelchairs or walkers. Many people in Spokane were forced to navigate in busy streets rather than stay on sidewalks last year because of inadequate snow removal and impassible berms. Be especially mindful of clearing those sidewalk cut-outs that enable persons with wheelchairs or strollers to access the street.

Know the neighborhood snow plowing route number for your properties so you can track the street plowing schedule in a Stage 1 or 2 Snow Emergency. There is a wealth of information at [www.spokanecity.org](http://www.spokanecity.org), when you click on "Snow Plowing Info" in the left column.

For the 2011-2012 snow season, cars in residential areas must park only on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses within 12 hours of a Stage 2 snow emergency, i.e. when 6 inches of snow are on the ground and more is anticipated in the current snow event.

OK. Who is still wearing one of those "Let it Snow!" sweatshirts?



2011: Dec. snow concerns; Nov. heating precautions, turkey fryers, holiday decorations; Oct. national Fire Prevention Week theme, change clock / detectors, 10-year lifespan of detectors; Sept. emergency preparedness, Alert Spokane, renter's insurance; Aug. renter's insurance, toaster tips; July fire extinguishers, recreational fires; June alarm systems, summer safety with barbecues and fireworks; May arson awareness, electrical safety; April CFL light bulbs and a 110-year old incandescent; March "Kids using Fire"; Feb. AEDs, CPR changes; Jan. carbon monoxide detector updates, renter's insurance, CPSC dishwasher incident.

2010: Dec. candles, holiday craft dangers, holiday safety reminders; Nov. smoking; Oct. national Fire Prevention Week theme and smoke detector problems; Sept. emergency preparedness; Aug. Consumer Product Safety Commission, summer burn restrictions; July apartment evacuation plans; June fireworks ban, CO detector update; May deck, hallway and storage area concerns; April cooking safety, Safe-T-element TM; March EMS (Emergency Medical Service), CPR; Feb. smoke detectors: ionization vs. photoelectric; Jan. carbon monoxide detectors.

Access past issues at [www.spokanefire.org](http://www.spokanefire.org). Hit "Prevention" on red heading bar, then scroll down to Apartment News in the left column.

EXCELLENT RESOURCE

For additional help with winter concerns, go to [www.landlordassoc.org](http://www.landlordassoc.org) and read the Dec.2010/Jan.2011 issue of "Rental Review". Joy Peck, Executive Director of Landlord Association of the Inland Northwest (LLA) consistently provides crucial information on topics of importance to landlords and apartment managers.

Snow Blower Recalls



Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for photos, exact information on serial numbers and remedies.

Honda, Models HS724, HS928 and HS1132: fuel tank joint and O-ring on the underside of fuel tank can seep fuel and pose fire hazard.

Ariens SnoThro 30LE Deluxe, painted orange and black: safety problems with discharge chute when machine is operating.

Ariens Sno-Tek, models 920402 and 920403 are missing a safety shield above the side-mounted electric starter.

Toro Power Clear models PC-421Q and 180 have problems with the carburetor developing fuel leaks or the carburetor needle corroding.



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 (509) 625-7058.



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!

