

A p a r t m e n t

SAFETY



NOTES

SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

January 2012



IN WITH THE NEW! OUT WITH THE OLD!

As we welcome 2012 with hopes of good health and good happenings in everyone's life, we may also have the opportunity to make a lifesaving difference in someone's life.

- ✓ All smoke detectors are less than 10 years old.
- ✓ All units have at least one PHOTOELECTRIC smoke alarm.
- ✓ 2012 calendars are marked so tenants will test their smoke detectors on the first of the month or when they pay their rent.
- ✓ All address numerals can be clearly seen from the street.
- ✓ Throw rugs in common areas have been tossed out before they cause a "trip and fall".
- ✓ Fire extinguishers have been inspected and recharged.
- ✓ Old or compromised wiring is replaced.
- ✓ Residents know about hands-only CPR techniques. See www.spokanefire.org. *More information on CPR will be coming in February 2012 Newsletter.*

Spokane Fire seems to be singing the same ol' tune of "Check your Smoke Detector", but we review the national list of fire fatalities each day.

Too often, the details reveal "no working smoke detectors". This Christmas, two grandparents died along with their three young granddaughters in a fire that destroyed an older Connecticut home valued at more than \$1 million. During recent renovations that included the intended installation of hardwired smoke detectors, no one bothered to install a few temporary \$15 smoke alarms. Add to this a guest who placed the smoldering embers of a "Yule log" in a bag and left it leaning against the rear wall of the house. This was such a preventable tragedy.

Please remind your tenants with single station battery-operated smoke detectors to test their alarms each month when they pay their rent. This will hopefully keep them more mindful of the importance of working detectors and reduce the number of dead detectors due to missing or disconnected batteries.





PUT A **FREEZE** on **WINTER FIRES**

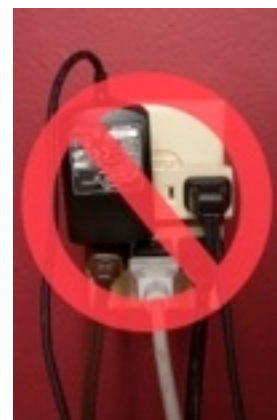


The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have teamed up to conduct a campaign against winter fires. While the number of residential fires peak in the month of December, the winter quarter January through March traditionally scores the highest total number of residential fires. According to the USFA, these fires result in approximately 900 deaths, 3800 injuries and \$1.7 billion in property loss annually. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening between 5 and 8 PM.

Unattended cooking is the top fire cause. Space heaters account for 1/3 of home heating fires and 3/4 of home heating fire deaths. Chimneys with creosote build-up explain one out of four home heating fires. Candles used either for decoration or for temporary lighting during a power outage, cause significantly more fires during the winter months. Careless smoking is the main cause of fire fatalities throughout the year, but the problem becomes more apparent when smokers have difficulty getting outside in snow and ice or fall asleep while smoking on a bed or an upholstered couch.

We know the simple rules!

- Never leave the kitchen when something is boiling or frying.
- Always use a timer to remind the cook that something is on the stove or in the oven.
- Never cook (or smoke) when sleepy.
- Make sure the stove is off whenever leaving the home.
- Unplug coffee makers when they aren't in use.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from any heat-producing appliance.
- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord.
- Use flashlights and battery-operated candles during power outages.
- Never smoke if you are on medically-required oxygen.
- Don't smoke or burn candles in rooms that have oxygen tanks.
- Inspect and clean chimneys annually in homes that depend on working fireplaces.



Don't overload extension cords or wall sockets.

For additional information on how to "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires", check out www.usfa.fema.gov or www.nfpa.org.

Heater and Thermostat Recalls



For a good summary of 2011 heater and thermostat recalls from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/prhtml12/12065.html>

These are recalls that happened specifically because of fire and burn hazards associated with the units.

Spokane Fire Department wishes you, your family and your rental families a safe and healthy 2012!

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 or by calling (509) 625-7058.



Be sure to visit our website at www.spokanefire.org

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

