

## S A F E T Y N O T E S

August 2014

### Night Out Against Crime

Congratulations to all of the apartment communities who gather each year on the first Tuesday of August to get better acquainted with neighbors and to learn how to discourage crime in the neighborhood. Spokane Firefighters are also a regular part of this event, stopping by as many “Night Out” parties as possible for each station. Night Out provides neighborhood station personnel with an opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of basic fire escape and life safety planning.



- Are your smoke detectors working?
- Do you have a realistic fire escape plan?
- Can the fire department locate your house/address number?
- Do you have renter’s insurance?
- Do you have a “File of Life” packet with your physicians and medications listed?
- Do you need an update on CPR training?

If you miss the “Night Out Against Crime” events this year, plan to participate next time. For more information, go to [www.Spokanecops.org](http://www.Spokanecops.org) or ask Maurece Vulcano at [mvulcano@spokanepolice.org](mailto:mvulcano@spokanepolice.org) to add you to the list for August 2015!



### Button Batteries

Big troubles can come from unexpected little things. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recently teamed up with counterparts in 12 other countries to make the problem of “button battery safety” a global priority. These coin-sized batteries come in an increasing number of small electronics, including keyless entry devices, calculator, watches, remote controls, and musical greeting cards.

Safety tips for button batteries include the obvious importance of keeping all products with these batteries out of the reach of young children. If a button battery is ingested, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Do not induce vomiting. Don’t eat or drink until an x-ray determines the battery is beyond the esophagus. In many cases, the battery will slip through the esophagus and continue through the system until it is eliminated in stool. However, if the battery lodges in the esophagus, the child can suffer fatal chemical burns in as little as two hours. Small children are not the only victims of button batteries. Adults have also swallowed them, particularly when they have not been careful with hearing aid batteries.

Click on the following link [Button Battery Safety](#) for a button battery poster reminder suitable for posting on a bulletin board, elevator or laundry room. The Button Battery Hotline, 202.625.3333, is part of the National Poison Center.

## Quick Numbers

- 9-1-1** Only use 9-1-1 to report a life threatening situation that requires immediate help from the Fire or Police Department. Be prepared to give your exact location (address), phone number, and type of emergency. Many people now use cell phones to call 9-1-1. They need to know that the 9-1-1 dispatch center cannot automatically track the location of the cell phone like they can verify the location of a land line.
- 8-1-1** “Call before you dig: It’s the law!” At least two days before digging on your property, use this number to help you locate important infrastructure that can prevent damage to underground lines, pipes and cables and also prevent possible power outages or needless injuries. Someone was seriously burned in Spokane this summer because a fire pit was dug too close to gas lines.
- 7-1-1** This number connects you to Telecommunications Relay Services so that you can make a call to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing who uses TTY or CapTel technology. The Relay service serves as a go-between to facilitate your conversation. There is no charge for this service.
- 5-1-1** Call this number to get current information on State traffic and road conditions, including construction or maintenance work sites. This is a good number to remember prior to traveling in difficult weather conditions. It provides information on WA State Ferry schedules, fares and wait times. 5-1-1 also gives statewide emergency messages or AMBER alerts.
- 2-1-1** Human Service Operators will provide you phone numbers and contact information for a range of social services, especially for persons needing physical or mental health resources, employment support, or assistance for vulnerable populations such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, or families with children. Check [2-1-1 Washington Information Network](#) for additional help.



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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.



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