

S A F E T Y N O T E S

May 2014



Each year during the first full week of May, the U.S. Fire Administration and their partner agencies work to raise awareness of arson and provide strategies for combating it in communities across the country. This year the focus is on vehicle arson because that accounts for about 27% of total arson crimes each year.

According to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, revenge is the most common motive for an arsonist. A car may be viewed as an extension of the individual and it can become a very personal target for revenge arson. Other common motivations can include gang-related initiation activities or car-related debt that tempts the owner to stage a theft and ignite the vehicle.

Basic tips for preventing vehicle arson on your properties include the following:

- Maintain a well-lit parking area.
- Encourage tenants to close all windows and lock the doors and trunk.
- Remind tenants to never leave valuables in plain sight in their vehicle.

Should you note an abandoned or junked car sitting on your property, call Code Enforcement for the City of Spokane at 509.625.6083. If the car is on the street, a public right-of-way, call the Abandoned Auto hotline at 509.625.4246.



This logo created by the Department of Homeland Security and distributed through the U.S. Fire Administration should become an increasingly familiar sight. The message reminds us that we

all play a firefighter's role in preventing fire in our homes and businesses. Thank you for your continued partnership with Spokane Fire Department in helping to keep our community safe!



Window Falls

It may come as a surprise, but falls rank as the number one cause of unintentional injury in Spokane County for children between the ages of birth and 14. Window falls are but one example of a potentially life-changing incident. With the approach of warmer weather, unprotected windows and screens present a particular danger to young children.

You can print the attached poster provided by SAFE KIDS Spokane to help remind parents of the fall dangers posed by windows. Bedrooms should be arranged to keep cribs and chairs completely away from windows. Window stops should be installed to keep youngsters from opening the window and tumbling outside. Care should also be taken to assure that window guards have an emergency release in the event of a fire.

You may also be interested in the [story of a young Vancouver family](#) still recovering from the consequences of a window fall.

Sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at 509.625.7058 or jdoherty@spokanefire.org



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Every year,
more than
5,100
children
in the U.S.
younger than
18 years of age
are treated in
hospital emergency
departments for
injuries related to
falls from windows.

Install Window Guards and Stops

Screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Properly install window guards to prevent unintentional window falls. For windows above the first floor, include an emergency release device in case of fire. Install window stops so that windows open no more than four inches.

Open Windows From the Top and Close After Use

If you have windows that can open from both top and bottom, make a habit of opening just the top to prevent accidental falls. Keep in mind that as kids grow, they may have enough strength, dexterity and curiosity to open the bottom. Keep windows locked and closed when they are not being used.

Keep Kids From Climbing Near Windows

For your crawlers and climbers, move chairs, cribs and other furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls.

Never move a child who appears to be seriously injured after a fall — call 911 and let trained medical personnel move the child with proper precautions.

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device to learn
more about falls
at Safe Kids
Worldwide.



Spokane Lead Agency | 509.474.2800 | shmcchildren.org