

S A F E T Y N O T E S



Do You Have An

September 2014

Emergency

**Water
Supply?**

September is designated “Emergency Preparedness Month.” For many years, each household and business has been encouraged to have enough basic supplies on hand so they could survive at least 72 hours on their own in any type of disaster situation. In Spokane, our most typical community-wide emergency period begins each winter with ice storms or potentially heavy snowfall.

In addition to shelter-at-home kits, we have been told to prepare a “Go Kit” that can be quickly grabbed in the event of an evacuation. In our community, that type of evacuation may be necessitated by wildfire or a chemical spill near the railroad or freeway. Go Kits contain medicine, eyeglasses, important family phone contacts, and other items that help maintain health and independence despite quickly moving from the scene of the disaster to a designated shelter away from immediate danger.

Fortunately, some individuals and groups have made it their priority to have up-to-date disaster and Go Kits. On the other hand, too many folks are still thinking about doing something someday for emergency preparedness! For those who manage residential properties, there is an added layer of awareness and responsibility for encouraging both staff and tenants to be prepared to be their own “first responders” for the first 72 hours of any major disaster.

When the whole notion of emergency preparedness feels too overwhelming, it’s a good idea to start with something basic and build on it until you have gathered the Kit you really need and have a plan that makes sense for you, your family, your business and your immediate neighbors. FEMA has a lot of good information on this topic at www.ready.gov.

Taking an inventory of the basic water needs for your family and pets is a wise first step in assembling a home preparedness kit. Recognize that you should have on hand one gallon of water a day for each member of the household. That translates to three gallons per person for the rule-of-thumb 72 hours when ordinary water services may not function. Some individuals may require even more water per day. Include pets on your water needs list as well.

Commercial gallon jugs of water are inexpensive and can be cycled out on a regular basis to assure they are still fresh enough to drink. Water supplies can also be made with ordinary tap water stored in cleaned soda bottles. Household chlorine bleach and a medicine dropper should be a part of a preparedness kit because 16 drops of regular (i.e. not scented, color safe or bleaches with added chemical cleaners) liquid bleach can make water safe to drink. Use this September to check www.redcross.org for additional water supply information and tips so that you will know how to best secure drinking water before any emergency causes your tap to go dry!

Missing Fire Extinguishers

Some apartment landlords and managers report significant problems with keeping the required number of charged fire extinguishers on their properties. Some have invested in locked cabinets with “break glass in case of emergency” signs. Another possible deterrent is the Fire Extinguisher Theft Stopper® that can be found at www.sti-usa.com. The smaller model costs about \$30. This device emits a piercing alarm when unauthorized persons attempt to take the extinguisher. It may be a product worth exploring, depending on the situation at your property.



- Rentals with three or more units must have a working 2A10BC extinguisher installed in the corridors outside the units such that no unit is more than 75 feet from an extinguisher.
- For multi-floor units, the required number of extinguishers must be on each level.
- It is preferred, but not required, to have the extinguishers installed toward the end of the hallways near the stairs. This provides some measure of safety with the tenant being closer to their escape path.
- Extinguishers are highly recommended but not required by code in single family or duplex units. The quicker a fire is extinguished, the smaller the damage.
- In some 3-plex or 4-plex units, it may be better to install an extinguisher inside each unit and indicate on the lease agreement that the tenant will be responsible for replacement costs if the extinguisher is not present or in good working condition at the end of the lease.
- 2A10BC extinguishers only work for about 12 seconds.
- Extinguishers can only be used once. If the extinguisher has a metal handle, it can generally be recharged by a licensed fire extinguisher service. If the extinguisher has a plastic handle, the unit must be completely replaced once it is discharged. The Spokane Fire Department list of approved extinguisher servicers is attached to this newsletter.
- Fire extinguishers are only intended for use on small, contained fires such as what one might expect with a waste basket fire.
- Fire extinguishers should not be used on grease fires in the kitchen. Instead, make sure each tenant knows how to use a lid to smother a small grease fire and turn off the heat on the stove.
- Tenants should receive basic “P.A.S.S.” instruction on the use of an extinguisher, i.e. **P**ull out the pin that unlocks the lever, **A**im the nozzle low at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the lever to discharge the extinguishing chemical, and **S**weep the nozzle back and forth across the base of the fire.

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.



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spokanefire.org

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Twitter and YouTube pages!



8/22/2014

Portable Extinguishing Servicer

Business Name	Street	City, State, & Zip	Phone Number
A 1 FIRE CONTROL	2672 E DODD RD	HAYDEN LAKE ID 83835	208 772 3461
ABC FIRE CONTROL INC	PO BOX 10353	YAKIMA WA 98909	509 453 3434
ADVANCED FIRE SYSTEMS INC	1606 E HOLYOKE #8	SPOKANE WA 99217	509 489 5040
FIRE CONTROL SPRINKLER SYSTEM	PO BOX 7204	SPOKANE WA 99207	509 489 1444
FIRE PROTECTION SPECIALISTS	3624 E SPRINGFIELD AVE	SPOKANE WA 99202	509 324 1844
FIRE SAFETY SPECIALISTS	PO BOX 386	POST FALLS ID 83877	208 773 7278
FIREPOWER INC	10220 N NEVADA ST STE 200	SPOKANE WA 99218	509 468 3204
GENERAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	4004 E TRENT AVE	SPOKANE WA 99202	509 535 4255
INLAND FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE & SALES	10518 GRANGER RD	NINE MILE FALLS WA 99026	509 466 7816
LANDLOCKED DIVERS	1117 LINDEN AVE	LEWISTON ID 83501	208 746 3256
OXARC	3417 E SPRINGFIELD AVE	SPOKANE WA 99202	509 535-7794
PIERSON FIRE PROTECTION	PO BOX 48722	SPOKANE WA 99228	509 939 3206
SEARS FIRE EXTINGUISHER	PO BOX 141558	SPOKANE WA 99214	509 459 0522
SEATRONICS, INC.	8324 S 259TH ST	KENT WA 98030	253 939 6060
SIMPLEX GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION	10010 E KNOX AVE STE 100	SPOKANE WA 99206	509 534 6055
TRIO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	9904 N ARROWHEAD DR	SPOKANE WA 99208	509 216-4388
VALLEY FIRE & SAFETY SERVICE	PO BOX 3062	COEUR DALENE ID 83816	208 661 8402
WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF TRANS	2714 N MAYFAIR ST	SPOKANE WA 99207	509 324 6000
WESTERN GLOVE INC	3107 E TRENT	SPOKANE WA 99202	509 482-1202
WESTERN STATES FIRE PROTECTION	10311 E MONTGOMERY	SPOKANE WA 99206	509 922 8890