

S A F E T Y N O T E S

December, 2015



Our November 17th Windstorm reminds us all of the importance of emergency planning **before** any disaster strikes! How many individual and multi-family residential units are prepared to be self-sufficient throughout a week-long power outage? Thanks to the outreach of many and the resilience of everyone in the Spokane area, we were able to weather the November storm despite the lack of electricity that some households experienced for more than a week.

Such a close call brings “lessons learned” for everyone’s consideration.

- * Is emergency lighting up to code?
- * Do residents use flashlights and battery-operated candles?
- * Is there a supply of drinking water and food for everyone in the household?
- * Are there safe alternative sources of heating?
- * Are generators only installed outdoors away from windows and doors?
- * Does everyone know that barbecues cannot be used indoors without creating deadly carbon monoxide poisoning?
- * Are carbon monoxide and smoke detectors installed and in good working condition?
- * Did someone remember the needs of persons who are more vulnerable to emergency conditions, such as infants, isolated elderly persons, individuals recuperating from a medical procedure, or limited income families with few resources for any month let alone an emergency situation?

- * Do persons dependent on oxygen keep an adequate supply on hand?
- * Is there transportation to a warming shelter or Red Cross site?
- * Is the gas tank always kept full in cold weather conditions?
- * Did anyone remember the food, shelter and medical needs of pets?

With the Windstorm '15 memory still fresh, now is the time to update your emergency plans and supplies. There is a wealth of information at www.spokaneprepares.org.

For assistance with a “Map Your Neighborhood” approach to emergency preparedness (that enables residents of a given apartment complex or larger neighborhood configuration to provide some basic initial response during an area-wide emergency), contact Dave Byrnes, Director of the Medical Reserve Corps at Spokane Regional Health, 509.324.1694 or DByrnes@srhd.org.

HOLIDAY HELPER GIFT LIST

If you are wondering about some gift items that would make the next emergency a little easier to handle, here are a few items to consider.

- * PHOTOELECTRIC smoke detectors with 10-year batteries
- * Carbon monoxide detectors
- * Battery-powered candles
- * LED lantern
- * Wind-up or battery-powered flash light
- * Wind-up or battery-powered radio
- * Thermos for storing some soup, coffee or hot chocolate
- * Hand and foot warmers
- * Emergency chocolate or protein bar cache
- * Battery-powered handheld games
- * Card games and books
- * Cell phone car charger



6-Year Archive

Spokane Fire Department now has 6 years worth of Apartment Safety Newsnotes. We invite you to look up seasonal topics or specific items of interest by browsing our archives at <https://beta.spokanecity.org/fire/prevention/newsletters/>.

Spokane Fire Department wishes you and your families the gift of a warm, safe and happy Holiday Season!

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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