

S A F E T Y N O T E S

Holiday Reminders

December, 2016



Many Spokane residents will celebrate the season through festive decorations, evenings spent by candle light, and the giving and receiving of gifts. From a first responder perspective, this time of year means reminding everyone of basic fire safety rules that help prevent fires during the winter months.

November through January are the months with the most residential fires caused by heating sources, such as unattended space heaters placed closer than three feet from anything that can burn or chimneys loaded with creosotes that have not been cleaned in over a year.

Christmas Eve, New Years and Christmas day are three days that the most candle-caused fires occur. To help reduce this trend, fire departments recommend electric candles rather than the standard wax and wick kind. We also remind everyone that three of every five fire fatalities occur in residential properties that lack working smoke alarms.

To help with your gift giving, Spokane Fire Department suggests the following safety items as possible gifts.

- *Battery-operated candles* -which can provide candle-lit ambience without the danger of open flame.
- *Kitchen timers* -help cooks remember that something is on the burner or in the oven.
- *Small flashing lights* -clip quickly to a jacket to improve the chances of being seen by a motorist when walking home from the store or bus stop after dark.
- *Extra lighting*- near the outside address can help first responders more quickly identify a unit awaiting emergency medical care.

Spokane Fire Department wishes each of you a safe and happy holiday!

Smoke Alarm Recall– Kidde NightHawk Smoke & CO Combo

Kidde released a recall of its hardwired NightHawk combination smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, model KN-COSM-IP manufactured between June 2004 and December 2010. According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, the alarm can fail to continue to chirp when it reaches its seven year end of life. If the battery is replaced when the alarm is at the end of its life, and the test button is pressed within ten seconds, the alarm will no longer issue an end of life chirp every 30 seconds and will no longer detect smoke or CO. This poses a risk of consumers not being alerted to a fire or CO incident in their home.



Affected alarms include model KN-COSM-IB manufactured between June 2004 and December 2010. To see if you have an affected alarm, check the model number and date of manufacture which can be found on the back of your alarm. If you have an affected alarm

in your home, stop using immediately and contact Kidde directly 855-239-0490 for a free replacement alarm.

To learn more visit, <https://cpsc.gov/Recalls/2016/kidde-recalls-combination-smoke-co-alarms>

Winter is Coming! Snow Hotline 509.625.7737

As snow forecasts become inevitable, it's a good time to review City of Spokane snow removal operations and expectations. You can call the snow line for a 24-hour schedule of information on plowing routes. Identify the zone for your building locations on the map at <https://my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/snow-removal/>. When two inches of snow are on the ground, with more than four inches anticipated, parked cars need to be moved from arterials and Spokane Transit bus routes within six hours. Cars in residential areas need to be parked on the side of the street with even addresses. Once we reach six inches, snow must be cleared off vehicles parked along the street as well as away from fire hydrants, storm drains and mailboxes. Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours. Persons with mobility challenges especially welcome cleared sidewalks and curbs. Spokane Fire Department sincerely appreciates your help keeping fire lanes open and snow shoveled away from hydrants in your neighborhood.

You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jamie McIntyre at jmcintyre@spokanefire.org or by calling 509.625.7058



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