

Number of fire Deaths for Month of December Alarms Fire Marshal

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : January 4, 2010 at 5:57 am

Currently, 15 fire fatalities have been reported for the month of December to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by fire agencies across the state. "The number of fire deaths reported this month is alarming. Fire prevention is essential and everyone should be thinking about what they can do to prevent these fires," says State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick.

"The loss of a life in a fire is almost always preventable. I encourage every household to take fire prevention and preparedness seriously, reducing the risk of fire will take everyone's help," adds State Fire Marshal Matlick.

• Smoke outside. Use deep, sturdy ashtrays and make sure cigarettes and ashes are fully extinguished.

Home Heating Safety

Keep any heater at least three feet away from anything that might burn, i.e., curtains, walls, furniture, papers, etc.

Cooking Safety

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.

Electrical Equipment and Appliances

• **Have modifications and repairs to electrical equipment preformed by a licensed electrician.**

Electrical equipment and appliances should be maintained in top working condition.

Smoke Alarms, Fire Sprinklers, and Home Escape Plans

"The loss of a life in a fire is almost always preventable. I encourage every household to take fire prevention and preparedness seriously, reducing the risk of fire will take everyone's help," adds State Fire Marshal Matlick.

Install smoke alarms in or near each sleeping area and on each level of your home. Read and follow the manufacturer's installation, maintenance, and testing instructions.

•

• Discontinue use of dilapidated electrical appliances.

•

• Consider installing fire sprinklers in your home. The use of quick response fire sprinklers creates a safer place to live and protects property owner's investments as well as personal belongings and household members. Lower insurance rates may also be available.

• Develop and practice a home escape plan with every household member; ensure each person knows two ways out of each room. If a fire starts, immediately leave the home without stopping to gather belongings and get outside quickly. If a door is hot to the touch, do not open it and

use the secondary escape route. Designate a meeting place outside and take attendance to ensure everyone is accounted for and send someone to the neighbors to call 911. Once you are outside, stay outside. If you have a guest staying at your home, take a few moments to familiarize them with your escape plan.

- Conduct a Home Fire Safety Inspection by using a fire prevention checklist downloadable from http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/docs/prevention/home_inspections.pdf.

-

- Keep any flammable items away from your stovetop.

- Keep children and pets away from any cooking appliances.

-

- Keep children and pets away from heaters.

- Have chimneys and flues cleaned annually and inspected by a qualified person.

- Never smoke in sleeping areas, while on medications, or in a home where medical oxygen is used.

- Use reduced ignition strength cigarettes, commonly referred to as fire-safe cigarettes.

To help safeguard your family, friends, and yourself, the Office of the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips:

Smoking Safety