

## City of Willcox Newsletter May 2012

### **FIRE PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS! (Part 1 of 2 Parts)**

Jeff Stoddard, City of Willcox Safety Officer & Firefighter

Like Smokey the Bear always says, "*You too can prevent forest fires.*" It's very rare that the Willcox area isn't under some form of Fire Watch. During the winter and spring winds, we're usually on Red Flag Alert, and wildfires are common. As unlikely as it seems, a wildfire can be caused by a cigarette thrown out the car window that lands in the dry brush on the side of the road, or a spark from a dragging muffler.

#### **Prevention**

Here are some things you can do to help prevent wildfires if you are in these areas.

Make sure your tires are properly inflated and that you have adequate suspension so that the undercarriage or other metal parts of your car do not drag on the ground if you go over a bump or dip in the road.

If you smoke, don't light up while hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding or any other activity near dry brush.

If smoking in your car, don't flick ash or cigarette butts out the window.

Don't use power tools that may spark near dry brush in high fire season.

Don't make campfires anywhere outside designated fire pits in campgrounds.

Follow posted restrictions which may prohibit all campfires, even in fire pits during Red Flag conditions or restrict fires to artificial logs at other times.

#### **Safety**

Here are some things you can do to stay safe in case of wildfire.

If you spot a wildfire, call 911 to report the location and leave the area immediately.

If you are asked by the fire department to evacuate, do so immediately and without argument.

If you are not in the fire area, do not go to the fire area to watch the fire. Additional traffic on the roads interferes with Fire Department access to fight the fire. Stay in your home.

## **PREVENT HOME FIRES**

### **Stop Fire Before It Starts**

These 10 tips on how to prevent fire at home are worth your attention now. They are simple things for you to pay attention to, but the reward is very high. By paying attention to these things you can greatly reduce the chance of a damaging fire in your home.

Home fires are caused by many things, but these are the most common.

### **Open Flames**

This seems obvious and yet it is a risk in many homes. Whether it is a candle or a cigarette, things that are actually burning in your home are fire risks. Here is what you can do to make them safer.

If you burn candles regularly make sure they are on a base that is not flammable so that, if they should burn down, they will simply go out. Also, do not burn a candle within reach of a child. Their curiosity will compel them to try something some day. If you cannot be in the room, put the candle out.

As for smokers, smoking is best done when you are awake in a chair or standing. Most fires occur from smoking in bed, so make that room off-limits and you will immediately be safer.

### **The Oven**

A dirty oven is a fire waiting to happen. Over the years your oven collects more and more spilled food that increases the chances of an oven fire in your home.

The best way to avoid this is to deep clean your oven at least once per year. If you have a self-cleaning oven you need to become familiar with that process. If not, get out the oven cleaner and a pair of gloves and go to work.

### **Overused Outlet**

If you have an outlet that is overused you may be asking too much of the electrical line serving that outlet. You should not be using devices that allow you to plug-in 3 or 4 plugs at the outlet. When you need more plugs a quality power strip is the answer. Even then, you need to be aware of how much you are plugging into that one power strip. The item will tell you the maximum load, so figure out if you are exceeding that.

The most common use of a power strip is near the entertainment center. That is normally OK since you don't have everything on at once, but if you do, you may need to assess the total drain on the outlet at that time to see if you are safe.

Tune in next month for the remaining six tips on preventing fires in the home!

[end of Pt 1]

### **Library Poem by Julia Donaldson**

Tom Miner, Library Director

She wrote this for National Libraries Day in the UK:

Everyone is welcome to walk through the door.  
It really doesn't matter if you're rich or poor.  
There are books in boxes and books on shelves.  
They're free for you to borrow, so help yourselves.

Come and meet your heroes, old and new,  
From William the Conqueror to Winnie the Pooh.  
You can look into the Mirror or read The Times,  
Or bring along a toddler to chant some rhymes.

The librarian's a friend who loves to lend,  
So see if there's a book that she can recommend.  
Read that book, and if you're bitten  
You can borrow all the other ones the author's written.

Are you into battles or biography?  
Are you keen on gerbils or geography?  
Gardening or ghosts? Sharks or science fiction?  
There's something here for everyone, whatever your addiction.

There are students revising, deep in concentration,  
And school kids doing projects, finding inspiration.  
Over in the corner there's a table with seating,  
So come along and join in the Book Club meeting.

Yes, come to the library! Browse and borrow,  
And help make sure it'll still be here tomorrow.

[Julia Donaldson is the Children's Laureate at Waterstones, UK]

**From the Office of the City Clerk...**

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

**City Council Meetings**

Monday  
Jun 4, 2012

&

Monday  
Jun 18, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
300 West Rex Allen Drive