

City of Willcox Newsletter June 2012

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

Jeff Stoddard, City of Willcox Safety Officer & Firefighter

Here are the other six tips for preventing fires in the home:

Clothes Dryer

Your clothes dryer creates lint, and that lint builds up over time. You already know that you have to empty the lint trap after each load, but you may not know how much lint is getting past that.

Periodically you need to check your dryer vent from the outside of the house to make sure there is no lint blocking the airflow. If it is, remove it so that air can flow freely. This is one of the top home maintenance chores you should be doing regularly.

In addition, at least annually you should remove your venting that runs from your dryer to your outer wall and inspect it by looking inside. Clean the inside if needed and then replace and re-tape the seams.

The inside of your dryer may be filled with lint as well. You will only know this if you remove the front panel. If that is more than you want to do, call in a cleaner once per year to do the job. If you find that it was perfectly clean you can stretch out your frequency of visits.

Toaster

The toaster is an often overlooked appliance when it comes to fire safety, since it seems so harmless. However, over time bread crumbs collect and they certainly will burn at some point. The good news is that most toasters come complete with a very easy collection plate that may be removed and cleaned, so keeping these crumbs from causing trouble is very simple. Don't skip that step. Keep your toaster clean.

Fireplace

The fireplace is the one place you want to have a fire on a cold winter day, but the fireplace carries a high risk of fire in your home if you are not careful.

There are two things most likely to get out of control with regards to your fireplace. The first comes from a thrown spark or coal into the room. To cut this possibility, make sure your fireplace is equipped with a screen or glass doors to prevent the ember from entering the room. Also, for when those are open, a fireproof rug in front of the fireplace is a very good idea. The second risk is above the fire, in your chimney. This is where debris collects and,

over time, may cause enough blockage to create a chimney fire. Make sure your chimney is inspected on a regular basis so that you know it is clean.

Stove Top

The stove is an easy place to start a fire if you are not careful. The most common causes of fire on the stove top are with flammable items and flammable liquids.

Keep towels and the oven mitt away from your stove. They are fine for the dishes or removing things from the oven, but they should not be stored near the stove where there is extreme heat. Keep your cloth items at least a few feet away.

When you cook, fire caused by flammable liquids like grease can happen. Don't be surprised, be prepared. Have a proper fire extinguisher or baking soda handy for when you need it.

Light Bulbs

Light bulbs pose a risk of fire when they are near things that burn and they are hot. Incandescent light bulbs get very hot, so you need to be careful about what is near them. Never put cloth on top of a lamp or it may very well ignite.

A good way to reduce the risk of fire from hot light bulbs is to reduce or remove the heat that they generate. One way to do this is to use cooler LED lamp light bulbs instead. You will not only save money on monthly utility bills, you will allow your light fixtures to run cool instead of hot.

Grill

The grill is another hot item that carries a risk of home fire if it is placed in the wrong spot. Here are some things to think about when it comes to your grill.

Don't ever grill in the garage. If it is raining, that means you need another way to cook. As safe as it may seem, a grill indoors is a bad idea.

Make sure you keep your grill away from the house. Don't place a hot or heating grill inches from your siding, for example. Even if you store it near the house when not in use, pull it several feet away when hot. A windy day will blow grill heat and flames a few feet from the source, so maintaining the proper distance from the house is important.

Play It Safe

There you have the list of things you need to know for fire prevention in your home. If you follow these 10 tips on how to prevent fire at home, your home will be a safe place to live in.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford

City Council Meetings

Monday
July 2, 2012

&

Monday
July 16, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 West Rex Allen Drive

**Congratulations to our newly appointed
Mayor Robert (Bob) Irvin;
and Vice Mayor William (Bill) Holloway!**