

Homeowners Association Update
December 2017



Holiday Tree Safety

- Select only a fresh tree that is deep green in color with a strong scent and no falling needles.
- Cut at least one inch (1") off the bottom of the tree butt using a straight cut.
- Place the tree in a large substantial holder and replenish the water once or twice a day.
- Constant watering is critical.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as heaters, fireplaces and wood burning stoves.
- Place tree so it will not block exits and escape routes.
- Only use electrical lighting (indoor or outdoor) and electrical decorations that are listed by Underwriter's Laboratory "UL" or other approved testing agencies
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for stringing light sets together.
- As a general rule UL recommends using no more than three standard-size sets of lights together.
- Check all electrical wiring and cords for deterioration, damage, splices, bare wires, broken or cracked light sockets, and loose connections.
- Discard unsafe equipment immediately.
- Do not overload extension cords or electrical receptacles.
- Never run extension or electrical cords under carpets or doors, through walls or across heavily traveled areas.
- When affixing lights, electrical cords or electrical decorations, do not use a staple or other method that might damage or penetrate the electrical wiring.
- Turn off holiday lights when leaving the house or before going to sleep.
- Dispose of your tree when it becomes dry.
- Never put branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.

Holiday Home Fire Safety Tips

- Keep matches and lighters away from young children.
- Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet.
- Place decorative candles in sturdy, protective, noncombustible containers.
- Never leave candles unattended, especially around children.
- Blow out all candles before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles at least three (3) feet away from anything that can burn.
- Use battery powered candles whenever possible.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If you must leave the kitchen while you are cooking, turn off the stove or take a kitchen utensil with you as a reminder.
- Keep things that can burn (dish towels, paper and plastic bags, curtains) at least three (3) feet away from the range top.

- Put fireplace and wood stove ashes in a metal container with a lid on it and place it outside – well away from buildings and combustible surfaces.
- Never discard ashes in cardboard boxes or paper bags. Ashes that seem cold to the touch can smolder for days!
- Have chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves, and central furnaces inspected annually and cleaned when necessary.
- Remember most fatality fires happen at night while people are asleep.
- Test your smoke alarm to make sure it is working.
- Have a fire evacuation plan and practice it.
- Be sure to know two ways out of every room.
- Pick a meeting place outside.

Significant Incidents

Renton Regional Fire Authority responded to multiple significant incidents during the month of November. Some incidents were in other jurisdictions where we provided assistance to the local fire jurisdiction. November’s significant incidents included the following;

- 6 Fires;
 - 6 Residential/Structure Fires
 - 3 of the fires we were aided by Kent FD and/or Tukwila FD
 - 2 of the fires we provided aid to Maple Valley FD
- 12 Emergency Medical Service Calls
 - 2 suicide attempts
 - 10 Motor Vehicle Accidents
 - 4 of the MVA’s had injuries
 - 1 of the MVA’s had a fatality
 - 1 of the MVA’s had a fuel spill
 - 1 of the MVA’s involved a car crash into a building
 - 1 of the MVA’s involved a car crash into a pole
 - 2 of the MVA’s were rollover accidents
- 2 Hazmat incidents
 - 2 gas leak calls we provided aid to Tukwila FD