

Homeowners Association Update – December 2015

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.
- Know two ways out of every room.
- Pick a meeting place outside.

Significant Calls during November

- On November 1, 2015, at approximately 7:30 pm, Renton Fire was dispatched to an apartment fire on the 700 block of Harrington Place SE. Upon arrival it was discovered this was a cooking fire contained in the kitchen. The fire was quickly extinguished and there were no injuries.