

Homeowners Association Update

January 2017



Improper or unsafe use of heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire injuries, deaths or carbon monoxide poisoning. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires or incidents from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, baseboard heater or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment (furnaces, stoves) and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Use of non-electrical (propane, natural gas, charcoal, kerosene, oil, wood) heating equipment must have ample ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide accumulations.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home and on a non-combustible surface.
- Never use a barbecue to heat your home.
- Do not use construction style space heaters without proper ventilation.

New CO Alarm Requirements:

- State law required carbon monoxide alarms be installed in existing apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels and single-family residences by January 1, 2013.
- Owner-occupied single-family residences are not required to have CO alarms until they are sold.

How to teach children to properly use 9-1-1

Parents can use the following safety tips to teach their children the proper way to use 9-1-1 to report emergencies:

Remember to avoid saying "nine eleven." There is no eleven on a telephone keypad or dial. Always say "nine-one-one."

- Always call from a safe place.
- If there is a fire in the house, get out first and then call.

- Post your address near the phone.
- Never call **9-1-1** as a prank or joke. You can get into trouble and keep someone who really needs help from getting it in time.
- Call **9-1-1** if you think you have an emergency and explain the situation to the dispatcher.
- If you call **9-1-1** by mistake, don't hang up. Explain the mistake to the dispatcher and say there is no emergency

If You Were Injured, Would Your Child Know How To Get Help?

Make sure your child knows the following information:

- Name (yours and the child's)
- Address (including name of apartment complex and apartment number if applicable)
- Phone number
- Directions to your home from the nearest main road, intersection or major landmark

Significant Incidents:

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

- 8 fires – 3 house fires, 1 truck fire, 1 bathroom fire and 1 patio furniture fire in the Renton service area. Also 1 house fire in Kent and 1 house fire in Skyway.
- 13 motor vehicle accidents (MVA's) – 5 of which were due to inclement weather (black ice). 8 other MVA's were due to other causes and one of these MVA's was a fatality.
- 4 shootings – One of which was the metro bus shooting on 12/16/16.
- 3 Hazardous materials incidents.