

## Homeowners Association Update – January

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 requires CO alarms be installed in existing apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels and single-family residences by January 1, 2013.
- Owner-occupied single-family residences, legally occupied before July 26, 2009, 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:**

- None to report for December 2014.