

## ***Homeowners Association Update – July 2015***

### **WARM WEATHER BRINGS RISKS: FALLING FROM WINDOWS**

- Never rely on window screens to prevent children from falling out a window.
- Keep windows closed in rooms where children play.
- Open windows from the top rather than the bottom when possible.
- If you must open windows from the bottom, open them only 4 inches or less.
- Move beds, cribs, chairs, tables and other furniture away from windows.
- Commercial window guards are available and can be installed to prevent falls.
- Be sure window guards have a release mechanism to allow escape in the event of a fire.

### **REMEMBER YOUR WATER SAFETY**

According to the WA Department of Health, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children and teens ages 1 to 17 in our state. In 2013 there were 103 unintentional drowning deaths to Washington residents of all ages; 13 of these were of children younger than 18 years old. All of these are unintentional which means they are preventable. Know your surroundings and know how to swim.

Typically hotels/motels do not provide lifeguards, so never leave children unattended. If you have a home pool or travel you should take a Water Safety Education Class from the Red Cross so you know how to prevent drowning and what to do in case of emergency. Anyone who does not know how to swim or is a weak swimmer should wear a US Coast Guard approved lifejacket, no matter how deep the water. It only takes 1" of water to drown.

#### **General Water Safety Guidelines:**

- Learn to swim.
- Take water safety class, learn first aid and CPR.
- If boating in the state of Washington – you must have a Boater Education Card.
- ALWAYS supervise children on, in or around water.
- Do not drink alcohol while swimming or boating.
- Do not attempt a rescue unless you have specialized training and/or equipment.
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential water hazards.
- Pay attention to the weather and tide tables.
- Know the temperature of the water to prevent hypothermia.

Most boating accidents are caused by the operator, not by the boat or the water environment. Approximately 80% of boating fatalities in the US are due to drowning and most would have been prevented if the boater had been wearing a US Coast Guard approved lifejacket. Because of this, Washington State implemented a new law in 2008 requiring anyone operating a powered watercraft of 15 hp or greater to take a safety education course and obtain a Boater Education Card to operate a boat in Washington. For more information on this program you can go to [www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com). Before going on vacation or going to a local lake for a picnic, make sure everyone knows how to be safe in/near the water and pass the information on to other family and friends.

## **SUMMER BURN SAFETY**

### ***SUNBURNS***

- Avoid direct sunlight during peak hours - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Don't wait for skin to change color or feel uncomfortable before covering up or applying protective lotion. Observe personal time limits for sun exposure.
- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply after exercise or water play.
- Ultraviolet rays penetrate clouds and clothing, and reflect from sand, water, streets, and patio floors.
- Sunscreen is also needed on cloudy days, in shade, and on sensitive skin areas under clothing when sunlight is strong.
- For further sun protection, wear a hat, sunglasses and light-colored clothing.

### ***BEACHES***

- Sand or asphalt can severely burn your feet. Always bring footwear to the beach.
- Use a beach umbrella for extra sun protection.
- Set time limits for sun exposure.

### ***FIREWORKS***

- Consumer fireworks are prohibited in the city of Renton; possession and use is subject to a fine and confiscation of the fireworks.
- Please leave the fireworks to the professionals and celebrate safely at the Fabulous 4th of July Celebration at Gene Coulon Park.

### ***OTHER***

- Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start charcoal briquettes.
- Keep children and pets away from barbecues and camp stoves
- Avoid letting children play in close proximity of a campfire
- Remember if someone's clothes catch fire – **Stop, Drop and Roll**, smother flames with a coat or blanket and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Wait for the engine of a lawn mower to cool before refueling, never refuel while the engine is hot or running.

## **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

- On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Renton Fire responded to a commercial building fire located on the 600 block of Park Ave. This fire spread to vehicles in the garage and turned into a dangerously growing fire. Due to the complexity and size of the fire we received automatic aid from the Kent and Bellevue Fire Departments to help extinguish the fire.
- On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Renton Fire responded to building fire in 1 story house on the 2200 block of High Ave. The fire started at the electrical connection to the house. Due to the size of the fire we received mutual aid from the Bellevue & Tukwila fire departments to help extinguished the fire.