

Sun Mountain Ranch Club Firewise Committee



Spring is right around the corner!

With exceptionally cold temperatures this winter, it has many of us thinking ahead to the warming days of spring. And spring is the perfect time to spring into Firewise activities.

Look for yard waste events

Your SMRC Firewise committee is planning on at least 2 yard waste events this year. We would like to have 2 in the spring and one in the fall (grant funds permitting.) Keep your eyes open for the dates which we will publish as soon as they are available.

Blue address signs

The Firewise committee still has a few supplies left to make a free blue reflective address sign for you. Please contact Karen Mulcahy at smrcfirewise@gmail.com to order yours. Supplies are very limited so e-mail soon. When they're gone, go to winthropfirefighters.org

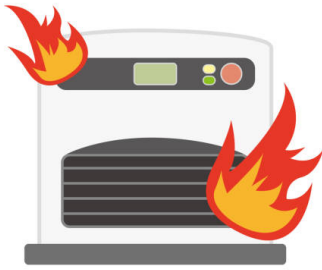


Spring Firewise Tasks

Spring is a great time to take a close look at your home and property and determine what needs to be done to prepare yourself for fire season.

Five Simple Steps

1. Clean your roof and gutters of debris.
2. Have hoses connected around your house.
3. Don't store firewood and other flammables close to the house.
4. Make sure your vents are covered with 1/8th inch mesh to inhibit entry of embers.
5. Take advantage of yard waste disposal events in SMRC (and possibly Twisp) so you don't have excess fuel around and you don't have to burn it.



It is still winter though

According to the latest statistics available, there are over 25,000 chimney fires per year in the US that are responsible for over 125 million dollars in property damage. Built up creosote is responsible for many of those fires, along with deficiencies in chimney linings and structures that allow high temperatures, embers and sparks to reach combustible areas that are adjacent to your chimney or fireplace.



Get your chimney cleaned once a year



There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "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 and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- 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.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**

If you think there is a chimney fire in your chimney, what do you do?

1. First, evacuate the home and make sure that everyone is out of harm's way.

2. Call the fire department to let them know about the situation.

If the situation is deemed safe and everyone is out of harm's ways, other actions may be taken.

3. Take all measures to cut off the fire's air supply. This includes closing the glass doors in front of the fire and shutting the fire damper as well.

4. Spray down the roof with a garden hose to prevent the fire from spreading to other areas of the home.

5. Wait for the fire department to respond and direct them where to go when they arrive.