



SANTA FE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



October 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Subscriber,

Fall is in the air! This quarter, we focus on fire & life safety topics relevant to the upcoming cooler months and holiday seasons. As always, we hope you find our quarterly newsletter informative & educational.

For additional fire prevention tips, please be sure to engage with us on our updated social media platforms linked below:

<https://www.facebook.com/santafecountyfd/>

<https://www.instagram.com/santafecountyfd/>



Preparing For Fall & Winter Weather



Autumn is finally here, and as the weather starts to change, so too do our home living habits. As we fire up furnaces, fireplaces, & pellet stoves, please consider the following safety tips to ensure you and your family are safe this fall & winter.

- Inspect the exterior of the home, checking furnace & fireplace vents. Make sure they are clean of any debris such as bird nests, and are properly screened to keep small rodents from entering into your home and nesting inside walls.
- Ensure dry vegetation, such as leaves are kept from piling up next to homes and structures where they can become a light ignition source.
- Have chimneys, flues, & furnaces inspected to ensure they are working and venting properly. Keep in mind fuel heating & cooking appliances can also be a source of carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide, or "CO," is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you. CO is found in fumes produced from burning fuel in fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. The symptoms of CO poisoning are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can easily render you unconscious & cause death.
- Space heaters also become a source of heat this time of year. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could easily overheat. This is due to the amount of electrical current space heaters require to operate properly. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.



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Did You Know!

The Santa Fe County Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management has played a vital role in our community by coordinating numerous vaccine operations, supplying personal protective equipment, and assisting in guidance for first responder COVID -19 cases. This is a direct result of years of planning & preparation by the OEM.



Let's Keep Trick or Treating Safe & Fun!

Halloween is a fun and spooky time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for the little monsters with a few easy safety tips!

- When it comes to costumes, it's best to stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is going to wear a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough for them to clearly see out.
- Provide each child with their own flashlight or glow-stick as part of their costume. This allows them to see & be seen.
- Decorations such as dried flowers, cornstalks, & hay bails can easily catch fire. Keep these and other decorations away from open flames and other ignition sources.
- Use battery-operated candles or glow-sticks to light up your carved pumpkins. Candles are not only more dangerous, the heat radiated from them can also cause your pumpkin to spoil much faster.
- Keep your porch well lit so that trick-or-treaters are able to clearly see trip hazards such as steps and porch decorations.
- Be sure to tell children to stay clear of any open flames other households may be using such as candles inside jack-o-lanterns. This is a great time to make sure they know & practice "Stop, Drop, & Roll".

Do you know what to do if your clothing catches fire?

1. *Stop immediately.*
2. *Drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands.*
3. *Roll over and over to put out the flames.*

Did You Know?

Studies show that decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly 800 reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.

Children are twice as likely to be struck by a vehicle on Halloween versus any other night of the year. Be sure to talk to your kids about crossing streets safely, and encourage crossing at intersections instead of the middle of the block.





Did You know?

Thanksgiving day is the leading day of the year for home fires that involve cooking?

One way we can help to eliminate distractions from young family members while cooking is to have games, books, and other activities available for kids. You can also get children involved in Thanksgiving preparations where they can participate outside of the kitchen. One such idea is to have them set the table (plates, silverware, napkins, waters, etc.) Teach them where everything goes, so they take pride when they get it all set correctly. Be sure to give them the two thumbs up approval.

Thanksgiving Cooking Safety is Paramount!

Most home cooking fires occur on this day! Make sure the Santa Fe County Fire Department doesn't crash your festivities!

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop.
- Stay in the house while using the oven, and check on it frequently.
- Be sure to keep a 3 foot "safety zone" around the stove where children are not allowed during meal prep.
- Keep pot handles turned inwards, and knives away from the counter edges.
- Treat a minor burn by immediately placing the burn under cold running water for at least 5 minutes.

Planning on deep frying your turkey? Follow these safety tips!

- Keep outdoor fryers off combustible decks, out of garages, and a safe distance away from the structures.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed & dry before cooking. Ice or water that mixes into the hot oil can cause flare-ups.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid overfilling. Oil can easily ignite when it spills over & makes contact with open flames.
- Turn off the burner before lowering the turkey into the oil. Once the turkey is submerged, turn the burner on.
- Never leave fryers unattended.



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



If You're Bringing Nature Indoors, Follow These Steps To A Safe & Happy Holiday Season -

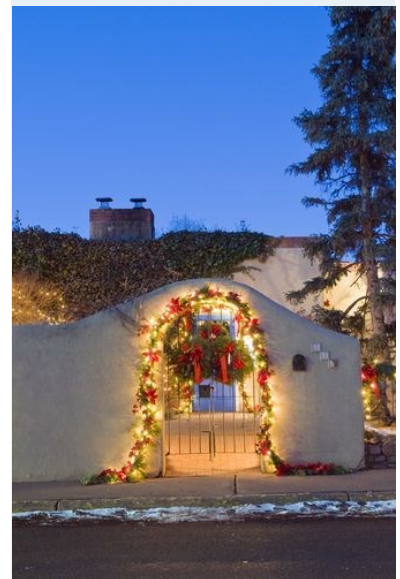
- Before choosing a tree, shake it to make sure it's not dropping needles. Limbs should be flexible. Trees with thicker needles, such as the noble fir, last longer.
- After you bring your tree home, Keep the tree outside (out of the sun) as long as possible. (Even a well-watered tree will only last about three weeks inside the home). Cut 2" off the trunk & immediately place the base of the tree in a water-filled bucket. Allow the tree to soak up as much water as it can in the next several days. Be sure to check the water level each day!
- Once it's time to bring the tree indoors, choose a sturdy tree stand that holds at least one gallon of liquid.
- Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources that can cause the tree to dry out faster.
- All light sets should bear the "UL" label from Underwriter Laboratories, and never use candles as tree lights.
- Turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Faulty or unattended lights cause most Christmas tree fires.
- Remove your tree from inside the home as soon as needles begin to fall off easily when the tree is touched.

Did You Know?

More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by unattended candles.

More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Before going to bed, or heading out, be sure to blow out any lit candles and turn off any decorations that may be a fire hazard.



SANTA FE COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

We Are ONE - Nosotros Somos UNO



OUR PRIORITY IS TO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE, HIGH QUALITY EMERGENCY SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA FE COUNTY.

SFCFD - Who We Are -

The Santa Fe County Fire Department is a combination fire department integrating paid staff and the service of dedicated volunteers. Formed in 1997 from the consolidation of 15 volunteer fire districts and the former Office of the County Fire Marshal, SFCFD protects approximately 1900 square miles of unincorporated area as well as the incorporated Town of Edgewood. Within these borders, the Department provides protection to approximately 76,000 residents, as well as several million square feet of commercial development. Santa Fe County is also home to four Pueblos – Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque, and San Ildefonso - which rely on the Santa Fe County Fire Department for emergency services. The Department maintains 32 fire stations countywide including five staffed regional stations and one staffed substation.



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Engage with us on social media
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Fire Marshal Corner

Autumn has officially arrived. In the next several weeks, we will be celebrating and gathering with friends and family amidst a hardy viral pandemic. Let us not forget wearing face coverings, maintaining social distancing measures, and washing our hands could also help reduce the spread of influenza. I am confident we will continue to learn and adapt to protect ourselves and others by following the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the New Mexico Department of Health. Have a safe and empathetic Holiday Season!

