



WAYNESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION and LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION
E-BULLETIN

January/ February 2010

Welcome to 2010. January and February have been known to be a dangerous time for fire and injuries. It is the hope that this e-bulletin will offer some helpful tips to prevent any harm.



Winter Residential Fires

- Each year, more than a half million winter fires cause \$3 billion in property loss, 1,900 deaths, and nearly 8,000 injuries.
- Heating is the leading cause of winter fires, whereas cooking is the leading cause over the entire year.
- January is the peak month for residential fire deaths and injuries.
 - US Fire Administration

If you use Kerosene Heaters, Wood Stoves/ Fireplaces, or Furnace Heating, have these inspected by a qualified specialist. All of these methods of heating may be acceptable; however they can also be a major contributing factor in residential fires. Also, be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis. Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

Winter Weather/ Snow/ Ice



January and February are times for winter weather precipitation. People, especially the elderly, are prone to falling on slippery surfaces or injury to their back. Listed are a few ideas that may help prevent injury during the cold months for all ages:

- Take your time walking to your destination.
- Use a clear path so you can see where you're stepping.
- Take frequent breaks while shoveling snow.

- Don't try to shovel and lift heavy amounts of snow.
- Use chemical to prevent ice forming on walking/ driving surfaces.



Driving during Winter Weather Conditions

Motor Vehicle Crashes increase during January and February due to slick road surfaces. No matter how quickly salt is placed on the roads, snow and ice will form and make driving extremely hazardous. Here are a few tips to help should you have to drive in these conditions:

- Before winter weather occurs, have your vehicle serviced, tires checked.
- Stay informed to news and weather forecasts. With mountains surrounding this area, weather can change quickly and catch you off guard.
- Plan your route of travel, especially during rush hours.
- Drive slow, cautiously and always watching for what other drivers are doing.
- Should you find your car fishtailing, don't slam on the brakes. Take your foot off the gas and steer your vehicle in the direction you are going.
- If you don't have to go out... **DON'T!!!**

For more information on winter home safety contact the Waynesboro Fire Department at (540) 942-6730 or email at wfd@ci.waynesboro.va.us.

For more information on safety during winter weather visit the Center for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.

For more information on winter driving safety visit www.virginiadot.org.



www.vaemergency.com