

November 2020



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Fire and Life Safety Newsletter



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Beginning June 2020 the Pioneer Fire Protection District will be releasing a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the public to help educate on specific safety topics related to the month ahead.

The goal of this newsletter is to educate the public on accurate and up to date fire and life education topics in an all in one format.

**CONTACT OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT
(530) 620-4444**

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing order in place, our office and stations will remain closed to the public until further notice unless you are experiencing an emergency.

HEATING SAFETY TIPS

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

Heating Safety



- Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.
- Have a 3-foot (1-metre) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.



Have chimneys and vents cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.



To learn more about heating safety visit the following websites:

https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating_Safety.ashx
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/heating_fire_safety_vertical.pdf

THANKSGIVING SAFETY TIPS

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, Thanksgiving Day continues – year after year – to be the leader in home fires, injuries and death caused by cooking accidents. Unattended cooking and the misuse of cooking equipment are the leading contributing factors in cooking fires.



Kitchen Safety Guidelines

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children – up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



**Don't carry
or hold a child
while cooking at
the stove.**

To learn more about cooking safety visit the following websites:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Thanksgiving>

<https://www.safekids.org/blog/5-ways-make-thanksgiving-cooking-safer>

HOLIDAY DECORATION GUIDELINES



According to the National Fire Protection Association, carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer. Between 2013-2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.

Decorating Guidelines

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



To learn more about decoration guidelines, visit the following websites:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Winter-holidays>

<https://youtu.be/AZk4vIXCnc8>

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

With the weather getting colder, rain and snow will be here before we know it.

Be Prepared

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car. If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked.



Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill



If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

To learn more about winter driving safety, visit the following websites:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>

<https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/driving>

<https://mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features/traction-control/>

STAIR SAFETY WEEK

Stair safety week is November 9-15 and now is the time to brush up on all things related to stair safety!



Stair Safety Tips

- Keep stairs and walking areas clear.
- Be aware of uneven surfaces.
- Stairways should be well lit from both the top and the bottom.
- Have easy-to-grip handrails installed along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
- Wear sturdy, well-fitting, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. These are safer than high heels, thick-soled athletic shoes, slippers, or stocking feet.
- When children need to be carried up and down the stairs, hold on to the banister or handrail, and do not carry anything else.
- Carefully watch toddlers on stairs. Hold their hands when walking up and down, until they are ready to use the stairs on their own.
- Teach children to always hold onto handrails and not to play or jump on stairs. If they need help carrying things up or down the stairs, they should ask an adult for help.
- Never use baby walkers. Opt for a stationary activity center and place it away from stairs.

DID YOU KNOW?



Every 6 minutes, a child younger than 5 is rushed to an ER for a stair-related injury.

- Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital

To learn more about stair safety, visit any of the following websites:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teachingtools/Remembering-When>

<https://www.preventchildinjury.org/calendar/stair-safety>

<https://bit.ly/34HMTfz>

<https://youtu.be/aQnhBktRxJc>

<https://makesafehappen.com/articles/stair-safety-kids>.

PFPD UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Have you seen these signs in Grizzly Flats?



These signs are our brand-new Route Signs (to assist OES, Fire and Rescue in times of emergencies) that have been placed throughout Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Community, thanks to a partnership with the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council and the Pioneer Fire Protection District. The Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council has provided substantial funding for this project to benefit citizens of Grizzly Flats. There are approximately 37 signs in place at various locations throughout the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Community.

If there is a situation where the community of Grizzly Flats needs to be directed (via public safety officials) or citizens to take the necessary routes that will be indicated in an emergency evacuation. There are currently two labeled route options and they are the Capps Crossing Route and the Leoni Route.

If you have questions, please direct them to admin@pioneerfire.org or call our office at (530) 620-4444.

PFPD UPDATES AND INFORMATION



The district is in need of your help!

The Pioneer Fire Protection District needs help!

We need your help to improve our capabilities to meet fire insurance standards and industry expectations (homeowners fire insurance) helping us improve our ability to respond to our increasing fire threat.

Water supply needs are listed at the link below:

<http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Letter-to-community-regarding-water-supply-donations-needed.-1.pdf>

If you any questions or wish to help fund/donate any of the listed needs.

Please contact the district office.

Phone: 530 620-4444 Email: admin@pioneerfire.org



[To learn more about what is happening in our district, visit our website at](http://pioneerfire.org/)

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