

December 2020



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Fire and Life Safety Newsletter

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

PG 1 - Holiday Decorating Guidelines

PG 2 - Cooking Safety

PG 2 - Candle Safety

PG 3 - Burn Prevention

PG 3 - Toy Safety

PG 4 - Winter Driving Safety

PG 5 - Powerline Safety

PG 6 - Winter Illness Prevention

PG 7 - Burn Pile Guidelines

PG 8 - Generator Safety

PG 8 - Electrical Cord Safety

PG 9 - 10 - PFPD Updates and Information



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.

HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Holiday Decorating 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 website:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Winter-holidays>
<https://youtu.be/AZk4vIXCnc8>

HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Cooking Safety

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

Cooking Safety Guidelines

- Keep an eye on what you fry. Most cooking fires start when someone is frying food.
- Watch what you are cooking. Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
- Make sure you are awake and alert. Alcohol and some drugs can make you sleepy.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up so they don't catch on fire.
- Make sure children and pets stay at least 3 feet away from a hot stove.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so no one can bump them or pull them over.
- Move things that can burn away from the stove. This includes dishtowels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains..



Candle Safety

Candle Safety Guidelines

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- Put candles in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders.
- Place candles where they cannot tip over.
- Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- Blow out candles after use and before going to bed.



To learn more about cooking guidelines, visit the following website:

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

HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Burn Prevention

Burn Prevention Guidelines

- Supervise children around hot objects at all times.
- Stand at least 3 feet away from hot outdoor objects.
- Keep area clear of trip hazards. Limit alcohol consumption.
- Protect your feet from hot objects by wearing shoes when walking on hot pavement or sand. Keep pets off hot pavement too.
- Turn heating pads and blankets off before sleep.
- Have hot pads available whenever cooking. Long oven mitts are best when needing to reach in or over hot surfaces, such in an oven or over a grill. Assume all pots and pans are hot.
- Remember to treat items coming from the microwave as you would items from the oven. Limit microwave use by children.
- Unplug tools such as these when not in use, and always treat as if they are still hot. Keep out of reach of children

Prevent Scalds



Set your water heater at:

120° F

or

48° C

or just below the medium setting.

It Can Happen In A Flash With A Splash
Liquid And Steam Burn Like Fire

WWW.FLASHSPLASH.ORG

Toy Safety Guidelines

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, In 2016, 174,100 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency departments for toy-related injuries.

Toy Safety Guidelines

- Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game. Read the instructions and warning labels to make sure the toy is just right for your child.
- Check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards before you settle on the perfect toy.
- Separate toys by age and keep a special eye on small game pieces that may be a choking hazard for young children.
- Toys intended for older children may pose a risk to younger, curious siblings.
- Use a bin or container to store toys when playtime is over.
- Make sure there are no holes or hinges that could catch little fingers.



Check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other choking hazards.

To learn more about toy safety guidelines, visit the following website:

https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/toy-safety

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES



Winter Driving Safety Guidelines

- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Remember that all children under age 13 should always ride properly buckled in the back seat.
- Make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and that any children riding with you are in the right seat for their ages and sizes.
- Though thick outerwear will keep your children warm, it can interfere with the proper harness fit on your child in a car seat. Choose thin, warm layers for your child instead, and place blankets or coats around your child after the harness is snug and secure for extra warmth.
- Carry a working flashlight, flares (battery preferred), bottle water, snacks, extra blanket, 5x7 tarp and cell phone.
- Try to keep your vehicle fuel above 3/4 just in case you have to keep it running for a long period of time.
- Remember to get off the roadway and stay in your vehicle others may lose control too.
- Stay alert while driving and avoid risky driving behaviors.

To learn more about winter driving tips, visit the following website:

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

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

Powerline Safety Guidelines

Know what to do if you see a downed power line!

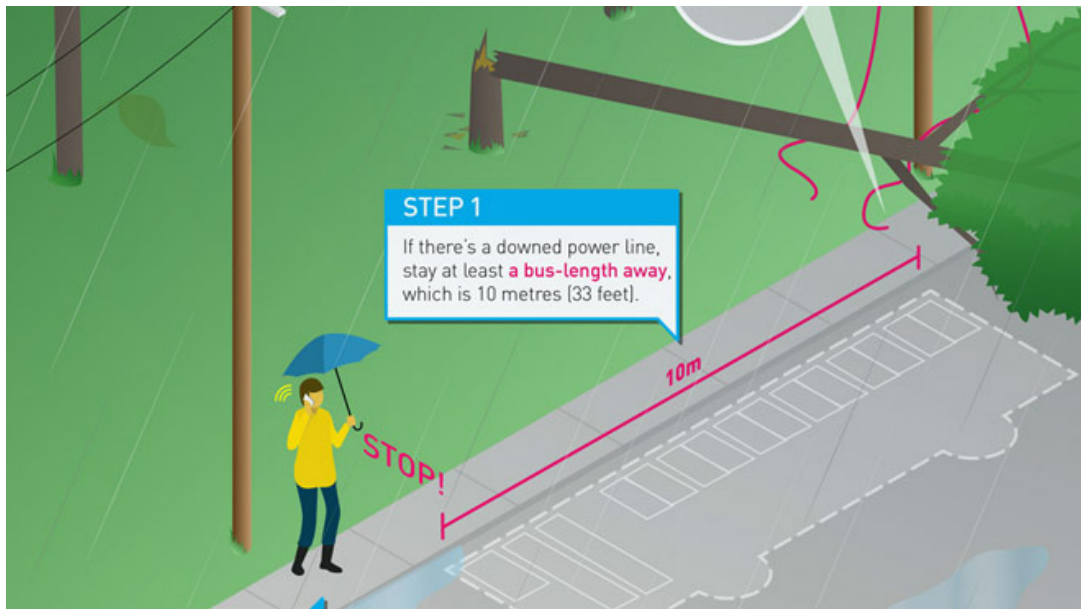
Downed power lines are dangerous. Never touch them.

For safety's sake, always assume that a fallen power line is live, and follow the guidelines listed below.

- Avoid touching the downed line with your hand or an object, such as a stick, broom or pole.
- Avoid touching anything, such as a car, object or equipment, or anyone who is in contact with a fallen power line.
- Keep children and pets away from fallen electric lines.
- Avoid driving over a fallen power line. Call 9-1-1 immediately to report a fallen power line.

Remember these important safety tips for overhead power lines:

- Look up before lifting ladders and other long-handled tools to avoid accidental contact with electric lines.
- Stay away from fallen or dangling power lines. Don't touch the lines. Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 to report tree branches or limbs near power lines. Never attempt to do the trimming, yourself.



To learn more about powerline safety, visit the following website:

https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/electrical-safety/what-to-do-if-you-see-a-downed-power-line/what-to-do-if-you-see-a-downed-power-line.page#:~:text=Avoid%20touching%20anything%2C%20such%20as,report%20a%20fallen%20power%20li ne.

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

Winter Illness Prevention

Viruses that cause colds can spread from infected people to others through the air and close personal contact.

Avoid close contact.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.



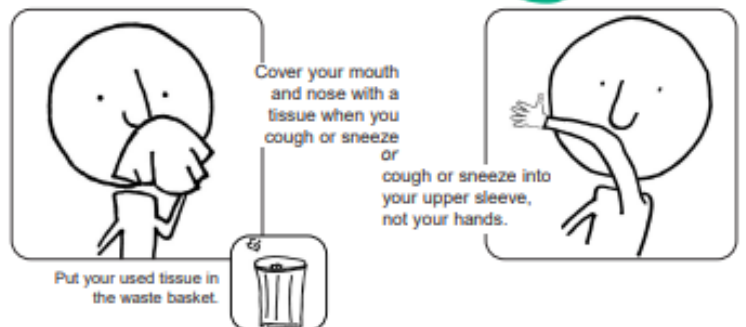
Stay home when you are sick.

- If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

Cover your Cough

Cover your mouth and nose.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and COVID-19, are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.



Clean your hands.

- Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.



To learn more about preventing illness, visit the following website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm>

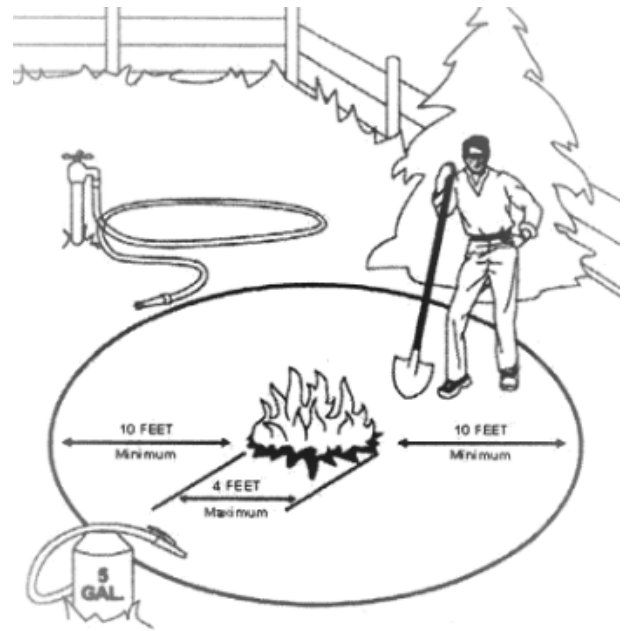
WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

Burn Pile Guidelines

With the burn ban being lifted many more residents are clearing their properties. Ensure that you are doing your burn pile correctly and safely to avoid any unwanted emergencies.

Burn Pile Safety Tips:

- Landscape debris piles must be in small 4 feet by 4 feet piles.
- Choose a safe burning site away from powerlines, overhanging limbs, buildings, vehicles, and equipment. You'll need at least three times the height of the pile of vertical clearance.
- Clear all flammable material and vegetation within 10 feet of the outer edge of pile.
- Keep a water supply and shovel close to the burning site.
- A responsible adult is required by law to be in attendance until the fire is out.
- No burning shall be undertaken unless weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that burning can be considered safe.



To get a burn permit for burn piles up to 4'x4':

<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

Always check if it is a burn day before you burn by:

Calling: (530) 621-5897

Visiting:

[https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Pages/burn_information_\(outdoor\).aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Pages/burn_information_(outdoor).aspx)

To learn more about burn pile safety, visit the following websites:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/documents/learn%20before%20you%20burn.pdf>

<https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/backyard-debris-burning>

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

Generator Safety

Winter is almost here and now is the time to make sure your generator is working and stored correctly.

Generator Safety Tips:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire on all doors, windows and vents.



Electrical Cord Safety

Follow the following guidelines to ensure your safety when using extension cords.



Electrical Cord Safety Tips:

- Do not overload power strips.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug.

To learn more about generator and power cord safety, visit the following websites:

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

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/GeneratorSafety.ashx>

PFPD UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Water Tank Donations

Thank you to all who have donated, committed items and funds. We are continuing to move forward with the water supply storage project and have updated our progress and needs.

Total beginning estimate \$3000-\$3500

We have received enough funds to begin moving forward with the Station 34 project we have purchased and received one (1) 2500-gallon water tank for \$944.21. We have received enough donation pledges and funds to move forward and have purchased the 5000-gallon tanks for \$2110.88 for a total of 7500 gallons of water.

JR Logging will begin prepping the site within the next week or two. We have collected the following towards this project: \$2300.00 has been received. The tanks have cost a total of \$3088.09; JR Logging is doing prep-work at no cost.

We still need piping and valves at a cost of about \$400.00 (this increased from last). Leaving us at about \$700.00 (this increased too) needed to complete this project.

We will be able to move forward much sooner with phase II of the Mt. Aukum/Fairplay project. We need to locate (hopefully a property owner will allow us to utilize a small portion of their property to store the tanks) a site near Fairplay and Omo Ranch so we can store 5000 to 10000 gallons of water to fill fire apparatus. If funds exceed our need we are hoping to use those funds for the Fairplay/Omo Ranch project.

Follow up on the 4 corners Water Supply Storage; total beginning estimated cost \$10,245.00:

We have procured pledges for (3) three 5000 gallon tanks. In addition, we have had 85%-90% of the pipe needed already donated and delivered for this project.

We still need (1) one more 5000-gallon tank and then we will be able to move into next phase of the project.

Needed

(1) 5000-gallon tank \$2110.88 Pipe, fittings etc. \$250.00 Total funds needed: \$2360.88

We have collected \$800.00 of funds needed. We are in need of at least \$1560.88 more in funding.

Donators: Matwich family, Britton family, Iorio family, Rambach family, Rossi family, Williams family, Miles family, Lipp family, JR Logging, Anastasia family, Ewing Irrigation, Manske family, Findlay family, Stone family, Mittlestaedt family, Gallico family,

Donation Pledges:

Devitt family

Thank you,

Mark S. Matthews,

Fire Chief



PFPD UPDATES AND INFORMATION

[The PVFA is Hosting their annual Christmas Event!](#)

The Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association is hosting a drive through gift presentation on Saturday December 12th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. For more information, visit <http://pioneervolunteerfire.org/events/>

[Would you like to join the Pioneer Fire Protection District?](#)

The Pioneer Fire Protection District is currently recruiting for Resident Volunteer FF personnel.

The district covers 296 square miles of South El Dorado County with seven (7) Stations; staffed with career, shift volunteers, resident volunteers and on call volunteers.

Resident volunteers (RV) will be provided a room (living facility) in one of 3 fire station locations and will be requested to cover 120 hours a month (12 or 24 hour shifts on a predestinated shift).

The RV is eligible for the following:

- Education stipend every 6 months (reimbursement for school/training supplies or tuition)
- Receive stipends for their requested coverage (120.00) \$250.00 per month
- Is eligible to receive additional shift coverage stipends up to \$750.00 per month
- Receive call and cover station stipends
- The district covers cost and fees for First Aid, CPR, EMR, S130/190 and you will be required to complete your FF I and II task books. In addition, other training programs and certification costs may be paid for by the district.
- Eligible for OES/SPI deployment, paid deployments

Requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- High school diploma G.E.D. or equivalent
- Valid California Class C Driver's License
- Speak, read, and write the English language
- Meet insurability requirements of the District's insurance carrier
- Meet PFPD physical standards for Suppression personnel
- Wanting a career in EMS or Fire related field
- Will be enrolling or enrolled in a education/training a Fire or EMS program

Desirable requirements:

- California Firefighter I certification or NFPA 1001 equivalent is preferred; or Graduate from a California Accredited Fire Academy/Volunteer Fire Academy within 6 months of appointment
- 18 months seasonal paid wildland experience can be supplemented for initial OSFM FF I
- California Emergency Medical Responder Emergency Medical Technician or Completion of EMT course or CEP (must have EMT certificate within 270 days, if possess OSFM FF-1 or equivalent and wildland experience)
- S130 and S190 Certification
- Enrolled or Graduate of EMS/Fire College or Courses

Minimum 6 month commitment and maximum 2-years (maybe extended 1-year upon fire chief approval)

Applications are available along with the Job Description on the PFPD web site: pioneerfire.org or by emailing admin@pioneerfire.org Please complete and submit your application by December 21, 2020.

Questions regarding the program and recruitment: Contact BC Mike Stutts 530-620-4444



[To learn more about what is happening in our district, visit our website at](#)

<http://pioneerfire.org/>
