



*****For Immediate Release*****

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
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Make Fireplace Safety a Priority This Season

Olympia – As the days become shorter, Washington residents may be considering a fire in the fireplace to take the chill out of these autumn evenings.

The State Fire Marshal's Office recommends residents take the following safety steps when using wood burning fireplaces:

- Be aware of burn restrictions in your area before starting a fire. Unless the fireplace is the only source of heat, wood fires may be banned in your area due to air quality.
- Use only kindling or fire starters to start a fire. Never use lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace.
- Keep metal or tempered-glass screens closed unless loading or stoking the fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the fireplace with a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms in your home and test them monthly.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.