



**Office of the Chief**

Chief John R. Batiste  
"Service with Humility"

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

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office  
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### **Prepare Now to Use Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Safely**

**Olympia** – According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), heating is the second leading cause of home fires. Take some time now to prepare for the colder season with a few tips to keep your fireplace or wood stove running efficiently and safely:

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Use only newspaper and kindling wood or fire starters to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. It is cleaner for the environment and creates less creosote buildup in the chimney.
- Keep flammable items, such as stacked wood, blankets, or other decorations, at least three feet away from the fireplace or wood stove. This includes items hanging down from a hearth above.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed or a metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent embers from jumping out.

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.

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