



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste
"Service with Humility"

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

Captain Neil Weaver
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Charles P. LeBlanc

Date: October 12, 2021

Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Robert Wittenberg

Phone: (360) 596-3929

Email: fbpio@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

Clear Vegetation Around Your Home to Reduce the Risk of Fire

Olympia – As leaves change color and begin to fall, the State Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents that accumulation of leaves, branches, or other debris around the home can increase the risk of fire.

Dry vegetation in roof valleys, gutters, and below decks can ignite if exposed to burning embers from open chimneys or nearby landscape burning. To reduce the risk of these hazards, create a safety zone around your home by:

- Removing dead or dry leaves, pine needles, and fallen branches from your roof and rain gutters.
- Trim back branches hanging over your roof and chimney to create at least 10 feet of clearance.
- Clear any debris on, around, and below wooden decks. This includes mulch, dead leaves, pine needles, shrubs, or other plants.
- Keep woodpiles and construction debris at least 30 feet from your home.

Taking these steps now to maintain the exterior of your home can help keep you protected this winter. It will also prepare you for next summer's wildfire season.

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

###

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.

www.wsp.wa.gov