



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

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Contact: Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso

Phone: (360) 596-3929

Email: fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov

X: @WaFireMarshal

Clothes Dryer Fire Safety

Olympia – Many household appliances are essential for keeping our homes clean and functional. Clothes dryers pose a significant risk of fire due to high electrical usage and heat. The United States Fire Association reports that 31% of clothes dryer fires start from improper cleaning. Last year in Washington State, there were 47 fires and almost \$3 million in total loss from fires involving clothing dryers.

The State Fire Marshal's Office offers the following tips for reducing the risks of fires associated with clothes dryers:

- Plug appliances directly into wall outlets.
- Have installation and maintenance done by a qualified professional.
- Do not use a dryer without a lint filter.
- Clean the lint filter before every use.
- Clean behind the dryer on a regular basis to eliminate lint build up on the back of the dryer.
- Make sure the hose for the venting system does not become damaged or crushed.
- Do not overload the dryer with too many clothes.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for operation and maintenance.
- Keep the area around your dryer clear from flammables.
- Clothes that have been soiled with flammable solvents such as gasoline should not be put in the dryer.

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. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/