



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

Date: September 23, 2025

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Fireplace Safety

Olympia – Fireplaces offer warmth and comfort, but it is important to prioritize fire safety surrounding their use. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), fires occurring in chimneys, flues, or fuel burners were responsible for 77% of residential building heating fires. Last year, Washington State fire agencies reported 4 fire fatalities from home heating sources.

The State Fire Marshal's Office suggests the following fire safety tips when enjoying the comfort of your fireplace:

- Have your chimney and fireplace inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.
- Install a chimney cap to prevent obstructions and reduce downdrafts that can push smoke into the home.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen or glass doors to keep children and pets away from the fire and to contain sparks and embers.
- Never leave children or pets unattended near a lit fireplace. Establish a three-foot kid-free zone around the fireplace to prevent burns.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Do not burn treated or painted wood, as it can release toxic fumes.
- Avoid burning paper in your fireplace.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Store the container outside, away from the home and other combustible materials.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the home and know how to use it.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in key areas of the home and test them regularly.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

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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/