



Ron, Bonnie and Scott!

# SMOKE SIGNALS

THIS PUBLICATION PUT OUT BY THE BOARD  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5



Volume 9; Issue 2

FALL 2010

## ARE YOU READY FOR COLD WEATHER?

Most residents have heating costs on the brain. Whether primarily heating their homes with oil, gas or electricity, local families are struggling to meet the challenge of energy costs this winter. While a rise in heating costs this winter could be devastating for many wallets, increased use of alternative heating equipment – like pellet stoves, wood stoves and space heaters – could have an even more devastating effect on the already serious home heating fire problem.

As a leading cause of home fires, heating is a concern for every community every winter. This year, with increase in use of alternative heating equipment, families need to be especially vigilant to use all heating appliances properly.

Alternative heating sources are not inherently a greater fire risk; with caution they can be used safely. That's why Spokane County Fire District 5 is encouraging residents using pellet stoves, wood stoves, space heaters or any other non-traditional home heating equipment this winter to follow this advice:

### Portable electric space heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an auto shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Place space heater on solid, flat surface *at least 3 feet away* from anything that can burn.

### Fuel-burning space heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away be-

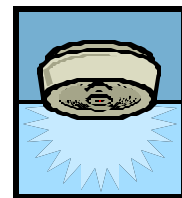
fore trying again, do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.

### Wood and pellet-burning stoves

- Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.



At best, not heeding this advice could result in superficial property damage. At worst, you could lose loved ones who may be unable to escape the rapid course of a preventable fire, as well as the comfort and safety you've always felt in your home. Make sure your home has smoke alarms on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside every bedroom and **test them monthly** to be sure they are working. Be sure your home has both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms or combination alarms that include both technologies. Plan and practice your home fire escape plan. And, please install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home to protect your family from this silent killer. Please join Spokane County Fire District 5 in ensuring that our community is safe from heating fires this winter.



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# BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



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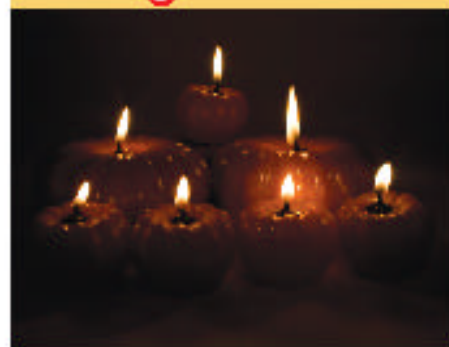
## Halloween Fire Safety Tips

- »» When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- »» Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, and heaters.
- »» It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candle in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

**Use** flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

### Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in more than 1,000 reported home fires each year.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



What is the best way to find out what your fire district is doing?

## Come to our monthly business meetings!

The district office is located in Station 51 on the SW corner of Four Mound and Dover Rd. We also have Station 52 on the corner of Valley and Charles Rd. We conduct our business meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00p.m. at the district office. We have informational handouts available regarding burning and emergency preparedness as well as fun and educational items for children. This fire district operates on volunteers; we are always looking for community members who want to join our department. Call the office or check out our website for more information and downloads. We will mail this newsletter out upon request.

**WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED!**

[www.scfd5.org](http://www.scfd5.org)

**SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5**  
 DISTRICT OFFICE, STATION 51 796-4793  
 17217 W. FOUR MOUND RD.

*Boy Scout Pack 782 in Cooperation with Springhill Grange presents...*

***HALLOWEEN PARTY! SAT 30TH at 6:00pm***

Carnival games, raffle prizes, costume contest, cake walk, trick-or-treats  
 for the kids and a treasure hunt. Call Jenny Kane at 796-2527 with questions or

~ OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM ~

**We currently have 20 volunteers; 12 of them are Emergency Medical Technicians.**

**District 5's Team:**

- Kjell Anderson—FF/EMT/Trng Lt.
- Jason Burdick—FF
- Bethany Cobb—FF/EMT
- Bonnie Cobb—FF/EMT
- Cindy Date—Station 52 EMT Lt.
- Mike Flint—FF/Equip. Manager
- Joe Gumminger—FF/EMT
- Rod Heimbigner—EMS Coor.
- Jennifer Jensen—Station 51 EMT Lt.
- Bill Leonard—Safety Officer/EMT
- Greg Lucht—FF/EMT
- Scott Lynch—FF
- Zach Martin—FF
- Miles McAdam—FF

- Brandon Meiers—FF
- Mike Pankonin—FF
- Courtney Patterson—FF/EMT
- Dan Patterson—FF/EMT
- Van Wohl—FF

***Go to [www.scfd5.org](http://www.scfd5.org) for an application to become a volunteer!***

Ron Wood—District Chief/EMT

**Board of Commissioners:**

- Todd Lehman—Chairman
- Gary Pietz
- Larry Wendlandt

**District Secretary:**

Carol Harrington



## BURNING INFORMATION

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, formerly SCAPCA, removed the Spring 8-day yard debris burn (two 4-day open burn periods). If you read all the fine print on their website, however, you will notice that several fire districts offer burn permits in their area to qualifying residents; we are one of those districts. See our website for more info and a link to SRCAA's site.

• **NOTE: You should call and/or check online for burn conditions the day you plan to burn for clearance whether you have a permit or not. Call at 477-4710 and this fire district at 796-4793.**

### FOR FOREST DEBRIS (SLASH)

Burning in undeveloped forest areas is delegated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. In forested areas protected by DNR, debris burning is permitted without a written permit if **ALL** of the following conditions are met (**called a 'Rule Burn'**):

- **Burn one pile at a time** of forest debris that is less than 4 feet in diameter at any time of the year.
- **Burn only natural vegetation** or untreated wood products.
- **Burn piles are at least 50 feet from structures** and 500 feet from any forest slash.
- **Clear the area** around the burn pile of any flammable material.

- **The winds are calm or light.** It is too windy to burn if trees are swaying, flags are extended, or waves appear on open water.
- **Maintain a connected water hose** or at least five gallons of water and a shovel nearby.
- **Attend the fire** until it is completely extinguished.
- **Be prepared to extinguish the fire** if it becomes a nuisance.
- **Call 1-800-323-BURN and 477-4710** to obtain updated burning information on the day of the burn.

**If any of these conditions cannot be met, a written DNR burning permit is required.**

**To obtain a DNR burning permit call 1-800-527-3305 at least a week before you plan to burn.**

SRCAA (Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency) formerly SCAPCA, puts restrictions on burning mainly based on air quality. Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources puts restrictions on burning mainly based on moisture levels and weather (although other factors are considered). Spokane County Fire District #5 uses any and all county, state and federal guidelines in determining restrictions on burning. That is why it is important to let us know what and when you are going to burn.

## COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

From Todd Lehman, Gary Pietz and Larry Wendlandt

Hello,

Well this year is almost over; I would like to tell you what your commissioners have been doing for you for the last 10 months. Financially, the district is in good shape. We have used some of your money to make our two stations more energy efficient by installing bigger propane tanks, replacing aging doors, weather stripping our bay doors, and installing new digital thermostats. We are also applying for a federal grant to replace some of our firefighter's aging gear. We will also be applying for a grant to buy a new pumper tender which will replace two aging trucks with one. I will be attending the Washington State Fire Commissioners convention this month where I hope to learn a lot more and talk with other commissioners from throughout the state.

We had an open house this month; thanks to those of you who dropped by, Med Star was there with the helicopter. Thanks to all the firefighters, EMT's who were there to serve hot dogs, show off our equipment, and answer any questions you had.

Thank you for continued support!

Larry Wendlandt Fire District 5 Commissioner