

Smoke Signals

Apr-May-June 2025
Volume 2, Issue 2

Wildfire Preparedness Month

Did you know that the month of May is wildfire preparedness month?

As the weather starts to get warmer and people start to venture outside to work on projects or go exploring in the great outdoors, keep in mind that you can help protect both your home and the environment you interact with.

As a home owner you can help harden your homes by creating a defensible space. This is a buffer that you create between a building (doesn't have to be a house,) and the grass, trees, shrubs or any wildland area surrounding it. This space helps slow or stop the spread of wildfire and can protect your buildings from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space can also help protect the firefighters defending your home. Here are some tips to creating a defensible space:

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep branches 10 feet away from any chimney
- Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground
- Keep wood piles and any large vegetation at least 30 feet from structures
- Keep lawns green during high fire season, watering during the cooler parts of the day helps the grass stay green.

Even when you are out enjoying nature you can help keep fires from starting. If you go for a hike and stop for lunch; pack your garbage out with you. Making a campfire? Keep a ring around your fire and make sure it is dead out before you leave. Last but not least, if you see something, say something. As firefighters are residents of the same area we would rather get called to a possible fire and stop it early then have a major incident.



HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

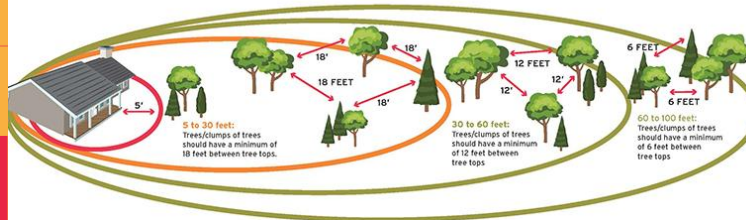
SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service

TREE SPACING



The Fire Department will be hosting an educational day on May 3rd, 2025, from 12-2 PM. This will include a dumpster that is available till full and some booths to help prepare for the fire season and more. Come check it out!!!!

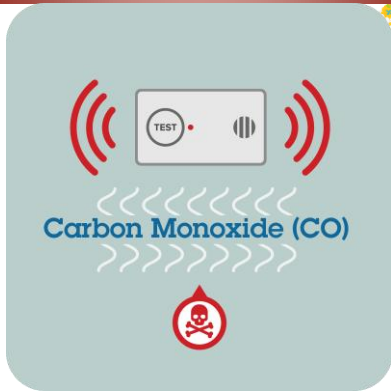


Inside this issue

Carbon Monoxide	2
Grilling safety	2
Car Care	2
Kid's Corner/Easter	3
Let's Celebrate	3
Questionnaire	4

Special points of interest

- Help Harden your home with a defensible space
- Check CO Detectors regularly
- Always clean your grill before use
- Keep eggs properly refrigerated



Carbon Monoxide

Did you know that there are many household items that create carbon monoxide? These include gas and oil burning furnaces, portable generators, fireplaces or vehicles.

Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and can make thousands more ill. Follow these important steps to help keep your family safe.

- Install battery operated or battery back-up CO Detectors near every sleeping area in your home
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly
- Have your furnace inspected every year
- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even when doors and windows are open
- Do not leave your car running inside an enclosed space, like your garage.

CO detectors are readily available at any hardware store and some grocery stores. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Fire Department and we will gladly answer any questions.

Car Care for Clean Air

What can you do to improve our air? Since most Americans own at least one car, this is an area where you can make a big difference-not only for the air, but also for your pocketbook! Here is how:

Care for your car: Keep your vehicle engine tuned-up and tires properly inflated for greater fuel efficiency.

Turn off car when parked: Idling for more than 30 seconds wastes fuel and emits harmful pollutants.

Park your car: If you can try to leave your car at home once a week. Get a ride share, take the bus or walk for shorter trips.

Know when to refuel your car: During summer months, refuel your car in the evenings and avoid overfilling the gas tank.

To learn more visit spokanecleanair.org

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency 2025

It's Grilling Season

There is nothing like going camping or to the beach and having a nice hot meal off the BBQ. It is one of the most popular ways to cook after all. However, a grill can become a fire hazard if you don't use it safely. It can be very hot causing burn injuries or can cause sparks and cause a fire if not looked after properly.

Here are some statistics on grilling fire from NFPA Research based on 2017-2021 annual averages:

- July (16%) was the peak month for grill fires, followed by June (14%), May (12%) and August (11%).
- The grill had not been cleaned in roughly one-fifth (20%) of the fires.
- More than one-quarter of grill structure fires started on an exterior balcony or open porch. Eight percent began when an outside wall caught fire; 4% began with some type of structural member or framing.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 9,079 home fires per year, including 4,454 structure fires and 4,625 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Six percent of gas grill structure fires and 15% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- According to data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2017-2021, an average of 22,155 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills

If you don't want to be part of the statistics here are some helpful safety tips:

- If using a propane grill, check for tank leaks before use
- Keep grill clean by removing grease buildup from both grill and tray below grill
- Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhangs, including branches or bushes.
- Always open grill lid before lighting it
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from grilling area
- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.
- Use protective equipment or tools while grilling, long handled tongs or spatula and oven mitts or grilling gloves.

We want you to be able to enjoy the beautiful weather that we are having so please you caution and obey any rules that may be in place.



What happens when you tell an egg a joke?
.....It cracks up!!



Kids Corner

Easter is just around the corner and who doesn't like to hide those little colorful eggs for kids to find?

Easter can mean lots of different things to different people, but most do some kind of easter egg hunt and coloring of hard boiled eggs for the kids. These traditions could use some safety reminders to have an egg-cellent Easter!

Egg Coloring:

1. Properly cook and handle the eggs you plan to decorate
2. Keeps eggs properly refrigerated before and after cooking them.
3. Use only food-grade dye

Easter egg hunt:

1. Use plastic eggs so they don't spoil if not found in a timely manner
2. Use toys and prizes appropriate for age range
3. Be careful to use hiding spots that are safe and away from danger
4. Watch for any known allergies- peanut, wheat, milk, and more

If you create your own Easter egg hunt at home these tips are very easy to control but be careful if going to a public hunt and check the candy and prizes before you let your kid eat or play with them.

Can you find the 5 hidden eggs in this newsletter

Happy Hunting!!!

It's Time to Celebrate!!!

- April 1st- April Fools Day
- April 3rd- Find a Rainbow Day
- April 7th- No Housework Day
- April 11th- National Pet Day
- April 13th- Scrabble Day
- April 20th- Easter Sunday
- April 27th- Tell a Story Day
- May 1st- Mother Goose Day
- May 4th- Star Wars Day
- May 7th- Bike to School Day
- May 11th- Mother's Day
- May 16th- Love a Tree Day
- May 26th- Memorial Day
- May 30th- Flip Flop Day
- June 5th- Hot Air Balloon Day
- June 10th- Iced Tea Day
- June 14th- Flag Day
- June 15th- Father's Day
- June 18th- Go Fishing Day
- June 23rd- Let it Go Day
- June 29th- Waffle Iron Day

A note from Commissioner Durham:

Thank you for supporting me, as your commissioner of Spokane County Fire District 5, for the last 13 years. It has been an honor for serve you. I have decided not to run for re-election in the up coming November election.

Have you ever wanted to serve this community; have the opportunity to work with committed and dedicated volunteers, or associate with talented and diverse fellow commissioners? The Commissioners election filing week is May 5, 2025 through May 9, 2025.

Thank you again for this rewarding opportunity you have given me.

Sincerely Isla Durham



You could be a Winner!!

Fill out the questionnaire and return to the firehouse for a chance to win a \$5 gift card to Eagles Nest.

Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd

Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

As a district we are located on the northwest plains. We cover approximately 90 square miles. We currently have two stations, the main office St. 51 is located on Four Mound Rd and St. 52 is located on the NE corner of Charles and Valley Rd. These stations are unmanned and we are an all volunteer fire district.

***Make Sure your name is on it**

Do you enjoy getting the newsletter? Yes No

Is there any topics that you would like to see more of? If yes please write topic.

Would you like to complete a home assessment? Yes No
(It's free!!!)

Would you like to see more open houses/ community events at the firehouse?
 Yes No

Is there anything else that you would like to say or know about?

Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

Phone: 509-796-4793
Website: scfd5.org
E-mail: admin@scfd5.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

