

Moose Lake News

Fire safety tips for the winter season.

By Jim Onarheim

Christina's Y-Pines at Moose Lake again this year have a Christmas fund raiser for the kids. Christina has many different baskets that she put together for area residents to buy raffle tickets for. These baskets are on display inside the Y-Pines. There is also a meat raffle during the Packers Football game on Sunday November 17th. Stop in and help support this Christmas project for our area kids buy purchasing raffle tickets on all the wonderful gifts that are on display inside Christina's Y-Pines. The raffle will be held on December 1st. All are encouraged to attend the raffle. We will have more info on this next week.

Fire safety refers to the measures and practices employed to prevent, control, and respond to fires. It encompasses a wide range of strategies, including fire prevention techniques, the installation of fire detection and suppression systems, and the development of emergency response plans. Understanding and implementing fire safety protocols is crucial for protecting lives, property, and the environment.

Effective fire safety involves both proactive and reactive strategies. Proactively, individuals and organizations should assess risks, ensure proper maintenance of electrical systems, and store flammable materials safely. Regular fire drills and training sessions can educate people about evacuation routes and the proper use of fire extinguishers. Reactively, having a well-structured emergency response plan is essential; this includes identifying emergency exits, establishing communication protocols, and designating assembly points. Additionally, adhering to local fire codes and regulations can significantly reduce the risk of fire incidents. By fostering a culture of fire safety awareness and preparedness, communities can mitigate the devastating impacts of fires and enhance their overall safety. This pertains to not just commercial property but residential property like our own home.

This time of the year reminds me that we should be sure to have our chimneys inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. I have responded to many chimney fires over my 50-year career in the fire service. Some people are not as lucky as the property owner that I recently read about. A homeowner in our state called his local Fire Department after he noticed sparks coming out of his chimney while he was walking outside his home. Their area fire department arrived within minutes and extinguished the chimney fire which caused minor damage. It was their lucky day.

Many times, a chimney fire can turn into a fully involved structure fire. Annual maintenance should prevent this from happening. Other things that can be done, is to make sure you are burning only hardwood (Oak or maple) that has been dried at least 1 to 1 ½ years at a minimum. Firewood that has not been thoroughly dried can leave creosote within your chimney that will build up in time. When the interior of the chimney gets hot enough this creosote will start to burn which is a chimney fire. This can burn hot enough to cause the chimney to fail, no matter if it is constructed of concrete or stainless steel. This will then extend through the wall of the chimney or create enough heat to start the wood structural members of the home on fire.

This is your reminder to have your chimney cleaned as soon as possible. Do not delay. Fire may not give you a second chance. Remember to also test your smoke detectors. We spend more time inside our homes during the fall and winter months. Let us be proactive and be fire smart. I can share one phone number of a local Chimney Sweep. Jerney Laures at 715 934-9607. His web site is

www.thechimneysweep90.com or call your local Fire Department for names of area Chimney Sweeps if you cannot locate one yourself.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes, or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Keep in mind that having a CO detector near your bedroom is a suitable place to install one. I am sure that is where your alarm clock is located so place your CO detector in the same location. In an emergency, you want to be woken up just like what you want your alarm clock to do.
- CO gas is neutral, you will find it at the ceiling and at the floor, it is not like smoke where you always find it at first at the ceiling. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height. Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds. In Sawyer County call 911.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engines or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow or parked near a window of our home. Sometimes our windows may not be closed tightly, which could allow CO to enter our home.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up. A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors, and vent openings. Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO use them only outside.

Birthday greetings this week are extended to Kenner Sorenson on the 15th of November. Karen Kazmierski and Angie Kiser on the 19th. Happy Anniversary to Stan and Donna Loebaka who will have their special day on the 14th. Happy Birthday and Anniversary to all Moose Lakers.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your beautiful week with comfortable temperatures. Please send your items of interest to my new e-mail address emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org> JO

