



Hampton Fire / Rescue Prevention News

Winter 2008

64 Ashworth Ave, Hampton NH 03842
Phone: (603) 926-3316 Fax: (603) 926-8731
bfp@hamptonfirerescue.com www.hamptonfirerescue.com

A quarterly publication provided by Hampton Fire / Rescue
Bureau of Fire Prevention

Improving life safety in Hampton through education and code enforcement

A Note from the Fire Prevention Officer

Welcome to the first edition of Fire Prevention News. It is our goal to provide you with facts, statistics, and information that will help you, your families, business owners & visitors of our community keep fire-safe. The Bureau of Fire Prevention is a division of Hampton Fire / Rescue and we work together to reduce fire losses in our town. Our motto is "improving life

safety in Hampton through education and code enforcement", and we will continuously strive to accomplish this each and every day. A major part of our role in the fire department is to provide code enforcement, plan reviews, inspections, fire investigations, and of course education for all ages in our community. Please feel free to contact us with any comments, concerns

or questions you may have about anything related to our field of expertise. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Jonathan True
Fire Prevention Officer

Special Points of Interest:

Did you know we have a website that provides a variety of information concerning the fire department and online documents.

Visit us at:

www.hamptonfirerescue.com

Prevention News wants your email address:

If you like our first edition, have any suggestions or questions, or would like to obtain an email copy of this periodical when it's issued please email us at:

bfp@hamptonfirerescue.com

Do you own a business in town?

If you own a business in town, you may want to check with the fire department to ensure we have all the current contact information necessary in case of an emergency. You can call or email us the information. This information is for the town fire & police departments only.

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

It doesn't matter what time of the year it is — It's important to remember to check your batteries in your smoke detectors and make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector. These devices are the most effective way to protect against fire injuries and carbon monoxide poisoning in your home.

Smoke Detectors are the single most important means of preventing fire fatalities in your home by providing early warning signals. They should be installed on every level of your home. You should also remember to test & clean the detectors by vac-

uuming them each month. Batteries need to be replaced twice a year.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors protect against a poisonous gas that is colorless and odorless. It enters your body through the lungs and is distributed into the blood. Carbon monoxide prevents the blood from carrying and using oxygen properly. It harms the brain and other organs. Carbon monoxide is made when fuels improperly burn such as; wood, oil, natural gas, gasoline & kerosene. Carbon Monoxide poisoning has flu-like symptoms without the runny nose and fever. They

include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.



Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Don't forget to clean and change the batteries twice a year. Remember the carbon monoxide detector also. They could help save your life!

Heating Safety

Winter time brings us the use of our heating systems. During this time, it's important to take steps to make sure your heating systems are in good working condition.

Verify your choice of heating equipment is permitted by law and has a label showing it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory. Make sure you obtain the proper permits for installation.

Install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions. If possible, have a qualified pro-

fessional install the equipment. Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside and the exhaust venting is kept clear and unobstructed. This includes the removal of snow around the outlet to the outside.

For wood burning stoves and fireplaces make sure you burn only dry well-seasoned wood. Use artificial logs according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Use only newspapers and kindling wood to start a fire. Install heat-tempered glass doors or a sturdy non-combustible screen around fire places to prevent sparks from

flying into the room. Supervise children when open fires and space heaters are being used.

Portable space heaters should be plugged into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord. Remember portable heaters should be three feet away from any item and turned off when you leave a room or go to bed. Inspect extension cords for cracks, frays, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace them if needed before using.

Have your heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year!

Cold Weather Emergencies



With the arrival of cold weather, invariably each year the drop in temperature gives rise to weather-related emergencies.

One of the most common winter home emergencies is a broken water pipe. Some precautions can be taken to avoid frozen pipes:

Outside pipes in areas subject to freezing and through-the-wall faucets, should be shut off and drained. Pipes in cold areas that cannot be turned off should be well insulated, but avoid the use of electrical or "heat" tape. Such tape is not intended for extended use and may increase your chance of a fire. In bitter cold weather, leave an inside faucet trickling. (Running water is less likely to freeze). Know-

ing how to isolate a broken pipe and turning off water valves can reduce damage should a pipe freeze or burst. Frozen pipes should be thawed out slowly. Never apply an open flame or a torch. Try using a hand-held hair dryer. If this doesn't work, your best bet may be to have a professional thaw your pipes. Other than considerations for life safety, such as wet electrical circuits or damaged utilities, there is very little the fire department can do to assist with broken pipes. Severe water damage may be best handled by a water damage restoration specialist.

Downed power lines are another common winter hazard due to ice storms. Any downed wire should be considered live and dangerous and must be avoided! Cold weather can present many problems, but with a little careful planning, common sense, and preparedness you can help prevent many of these problems and make your winter a lot safer.

Fire Extinguishers

Having the proper fire extinguisher, as well as knowing how to use it and when not to use it, is important in safeguarding your household.

Selecting the proper extinguisher for your home is as simple as A-B-C. The key to fire extinguisher codes is as follows:

A is for wood, paper, cloth and other ordinary combustibles. **B** is for oil, grease, flammable liquids and combustible gases. **C** is for energized electrical and electronic equipment.

The types of fire on which the extinguisher is effective is marked by the letters on the label or name plate. See the chart below for quick reference.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in areas of potential hazards, but never on or near furnaces, stoves or equipment which couldn't be approached in case it caught on fire. Make sure all members of the family or employees know how to use fire extinguishers. Don't forget to have a professional recharge it for you afterwards. Remember we have all kinds of safety pamphlets available for you at the fire department.

Safety Tips

- Clearly mark your homes, mailboxes and businesses. This may be inviting disaster in the event of an emergency if not clearly marked. Precious seconds may make the difference.
- Make sure your walkways and entrances are clear of debris and snow during the winter.
- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- When buying electrical appliances look for products which meet the (UL) standards for safety.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely and don't overload them.
- Keep your home heating systems in good working condition by having them maintained on a yearly basis.
- Make sure your home has smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

