



Faribault Fire Department Hot Spots

Welcome to Hot Spots, the Faribault Fire Department newsletter. Hot Spots features information about the Fire Department's operations, training, response, safety tips, emergency management, and other points of interest.

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A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

Fall is upon us! There are many different reasons that most of us love fall. Fall brings change and change is good. Fall is a busy time of the year, and it shows in this edition of Hot Spots. Please take time to read all the safety tips in this newsletter as they are all important! Please forward this on to your family, friends, and co-workers. Stay safe.

FALL CLEAN UP/COMPOST SITE

Autumn brings along cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and yard clean-up.

Remember to dispose of yard waste materials properly.

• **It is illegal to burn any yard waste**, including leaves, garden waste, and grass clippings **and you can be cited for doing so.**

• Yard waste is to be composted.

• The City maintains a compost site at 214 NE 14th Street.

• The compost site is available free of charge to residents in the City of Faribault.

• The compost site is open seasonally and the hours of operation are:

Mondays from 1—7 p.m.

Wednesdays from 1—7 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

• To check for updates on the fall closing date, call the information hotline at 507-333-0390.



Fire Dept. Open House

Be sure to join us for the Faribault Fire Department's 2017 Open House! Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14!!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Faribault Fire Department will begin the recruitment process for hiring Paid On-call Firefighters.

Learn more about this exciting opportunity at the Open House!

Employment applications, position descriptions, training photo slide show, and informational materials will be available.

Members of the Faribault Fire Department will be available to answer questions.

The open house will kick-off the annual Fire Prevention Week, which will take place Oct. 8-14!

Date: Saturday, Oct. 7

Time: 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

Where: 122 2nd Street NW



Activities include:

- Spray the Fire Hose
- Kids Get Free Fire Hats!
- Thermal Image Demos
- Tour the Fire Trucks
- Try on Firefighter Clothing
- Smoke House Escapes
- Kids Agility Course
- Auto Extrication Demo
- Free Smoke Detectors
- Meet Sparky the Fire Dog

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you!

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Did you know?

- Only 1/3 of parents talk to their kids each year about Halloween safety.
- Twice as many kids are killed as pedestrians by cars on Halloween than on any other day of the year.
- Arson fires and suspicious fires skyrocket around Halloween.

**Information provided for many of the Safety Tips was taken from the NFPA website and the State of Minnesota Fire Marshal's Office website.*

- Choose safe costumes. Avoid costumes with long or billowing fabric — it can be a fire hazard. Make sure eye holes on masks are large enough to see out of.
- Use battery-operated candles or glow-sticks inside jack-o-lanterns. Provide children flashlights or glow sticks to carry for lighting or use as part of a costume.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames and to stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Decorations like dried flowers, hay, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep decorations away from open flames and heat sources. Keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit.
- Check to make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.



COOKING FIRES



The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey in the oven and check on it frequently.
- Smother grease fires with a pan lid and turn off the burner.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.



- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocket books or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure appliance cords are not dangling off the counter with-in easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children!
- Test and make sure your smoke alarms are working!

SMOKE ALARMS

Did you know...

- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year.
- All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Working smoke alarms cut in half your risk of dying in a residential fire.

Looking for resources for additional fire and safety information? Please visit:

www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic

Browse by topic and review valuable information that can help you! You can find checklists to help you prepare for the winter heating season, winter storm safety tip sheets, and more!

Looking for kid-friendly materials? Visit Sparky's website at:

www.Sparky.org

This is a great website filled with a variety of games, videos, apps, coloring sheets, and activities just for kids!

TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

DID YOU KNOW?

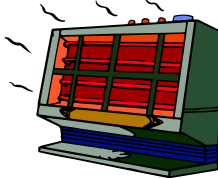
2 out of 5 home decoration fires are started by candles.

The 3 leading causes of Minnesota fires are cooking, heating, and open flames.

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Heating Safety Tips:

- Keep all space heaters 3' from combustibles.
- Don't leave a space heater unattended or turned on while asleep.
- Inspect heaters before use. Ensure safety shields and electrical components are intact.
- NEVER burn your gift wrap in the fireplace! It burns too hot and too fast to be controlled.



Decorating Safety Tips:

- Use flameless candles if possible; blow out lit candles when leaving a room.
- Keep all exits clear of decorations and clutter.
- Turn off decorative lights when you leave home or go to sleep.



- Don't overload outlets or power strips.
- Make sure all extension cords are rated for the location being used in - interior or exterior.
- Never place cords under carpets/rugs. Foot traffic may break down cord insulation, starting a fire.

Cooking Safety Tips:

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended and check items in the oven frequently.

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Did you know?

One of every three Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.

You should throw out any holiday lights that show signs of fraying, bare wires or other wear.

If a home experiences a Christmas tree fire, it is more likely to be fatal than other types of fires.

- Never block an exit with a Christmas tree.
- Only use non-flammable decorations.
- Keep trees away from heat vents and other heat sources.
- Remove the tree from your home when the needles are brittle or begin to fall off.
- Pick a tree stand that can hold the tree securely. The stand should hold enough water for two days.



FREEZE OUT WINTER FIRES!

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.

Each year in the United States there is more than \$2 billion in property loss due to winter home fires. Last year in Minnesota, 39 percent of fire deaths occurred in October, November and December.

Keep in mind these important tips to help freeze out winter fires:

- Keep all doors and windows that could be used for an escape route clear of snow and ice.
- Keep all vents (fireplace, dryer, furnace and oven) clear of snow, ice and debris.
- Never use a blow torch to thaw frozen pipes.
- Use flashlights, not candles, if you lose power.



THIN ICE!



When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer.

You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow.

Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

There is no such thing as 100 % safe ice.



For info on ice safety, please visit the MnDNR website at www.mndnr.gov/ice safety.