



CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

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KONP April 2017 Spring Clean Up Talking Points

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

Spring time is a good time to begin annual Spring Cleaning to remove all those items that have accumulated over the winter in the house, the garage and the shop or shed. If left unattended over a prolonged time accumulations could lead to hoarding.

Hoarders are people who have difficulty discarding personal possessions and eventually a large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal/safe use of the space.

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP –

- Now is the time to clear leaves, branches and other vegetative debris from your roof, porch, alongside and around your home and outbuildings. These could catch fire during fire season.
- Remove old vehicles and machinery from open lots. These create nests for rodents and during a fast moving grass fire can prevent the fire from being extinguished safely by firefighters.
- Move firewood stacks away from your house by 50 feet. This will reduce the fire hazard and help prevent insects from finding their way into your home errantly.

HOARDING – Increases Fire Risks

- Open flames such as fire places, candles, and smoking materials could ignite accumulated combustibles.
- Heaters may tip over and ignite combustibles
- Electrical cords underneath accumulations may overheat or wear excessively from too much weight on them. Sometimes pests chew on these too which can cause a fire.
- Blocked pathways may prohibit residents from exiting in a fire, cause confusion and even disorientation

HOARDING – Impacts to First Responders

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- In an emergency Firefighters and EMTs cannot move quickly through a home filled with clutter
- The weight of stored items, especially after absorbing large amounts of water from fire hoses can lead to building collapse.
- Large accumulations of items impedes search & rescue efforts and restrict access

LAUNDRY ROOMS-

- The leading cause of home dryer fires is failure to clean them – Be sure to clean out the lint trap before each use. Keep the area around the dryer free of accumulated items like papers, boxes, laundry, cleaning supplies, etc. Dryers need to circulate fresh air to keep them cool.

KITCHEN AREAS –

- Most fires in kitchens involve cooking equipment – Keep combustibles such as hand towels and pot holders a safe distance away from the stove top.
- Always stay in the kitchen when cooking
- Empty your trash regularly, do not let it build up
- Clean your stove and oven frequently to prevent build-up of flammable grease and oils.

SLEEPING AREAS –

- Fact Working Smoke Alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside and outside each sleeping area
- Press the test button monthly replace batteries annually or when the alarm begins to chirp.