



APRIL 2019



'Tis the Season for Spring Cleaning!

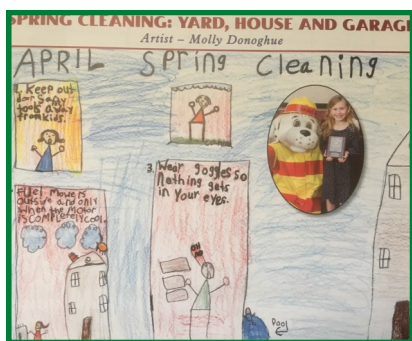
Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But do you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.



- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before and after every load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified, licensed professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.



APRIL: SPRING CLEANING: YARD, HOUSE AND GARAGE by: MOLLY DONOGHUE, HILLS GARRISON SCHOOL, HUDSON



Molly from Hills Garrison Elementary School in Hudson would like to remind you that April is a great month for spring cleaning. She reminds us to:

1. Keep sharp yard tools away from kids.
2. Fuel lawn mowers, and other gas powered tools, outside and only when the motor is completely cool.
3. Wear goggles to protect your eyes.

Thank you Molly for these excellent reminders on how we can be safer this spring!





Safety With Oily Rags

wet with flammable combustible liquid



Oil-based paints, stains and varnishes are often used for home improvement projects. It is common to use rags to wipe up spills or clean brushes, but wet rags can ignite on their own. They can start a fire if not handled carefully. The same is true of the liquids themselves.

How can rags start a fire?

The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air, it builds up. That is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. As the rags dry, the heat is trapped. The heat builds up and finally causes a fire. Be aware that this does not happen with water-based finishes.

How can liquids start a fire?

Vapors from flammable and combustible liquids can ignite, causing a fire. There are many commonly used *flammable liquids*. Gasoline, lacquers, and nail polish are just a few examples. There are many commonly used *combustible liquids*. Paint thinner, kerosene, and oil-based paints are some examples.

RAGS WET WITH PAINT AND STAIN

- * Never leave rags in a pile. Take rags outside to dry.
- * Hang rags outside or spread them on the ground away from buildings. Weigh them down so they do not blow away.
- * Put dry rags into a metal container. Make sure the cover closes tightly. Fill the container with water and detergent solution, this will break down the oils.
- * Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place. Keep out of direct sunlight. Keep away from heat sources. Check with your town for information on disposing them.

LIQUIDS THAT CAN CATCH FIRE

- * Flammable and combustible liquids should not be used near an open flame. Do not smoke when working with these liquids.
- * If you spill liquids on your clothing, remove your clothing and place it outside to dry. Once dry, clothing can be laundered.
- * Keep liquids in their original containers. Keep them tightly capped or sealed. NEVER store the liquids in glass containers.

GASOLINE

- * Use gasoline only as motor fuel. Never use as a cleaner. Never use it to break down grease.
- * Never bring gasoline indoors even in small amounts.
- * STORE gasoline ONLY in a container that is sold for that purpose. Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use.
- * NEVER store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building.
- * Store gasoline containers in an outbuilding, a detached garage or a shed outdoors away from the home.



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Learn More Information on how to keep your Home Safe as you Spring Clean

► Garage Safety



► Electrical Safety



► Chemical Safety in the Home



PREVENT MULCH FIRES

Mulch is a combustible material that can be easily ignited by improperly discarded smoking materials. Hundreds of small and large fires are started this way every year. What starts as a small outdoor mulch fire can quickly spread to buildings. A mulch fire can be well underway before someone notices or is alerted by smoke alarms or sprinkler systems activating.



* Regulations prohibit the new application of mulch within 18" around combustible exteriors of buildings, such as wood or vinyl, but not brick or concrete.

* Use non-combustible mulch such as rock or pea stone around gas meters and combustible portions (wood, vinyl) of your home.

* If you smoke, remember to properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking materials.

* Always use appropriate receptacles for disposing of smoking

materials and matches

* Do not discard cigarettes in mulch or potted plants.

* Be smart in your choice of containers for discarded cigarettes. Consider using metal cans with sand for outdoor disposal.

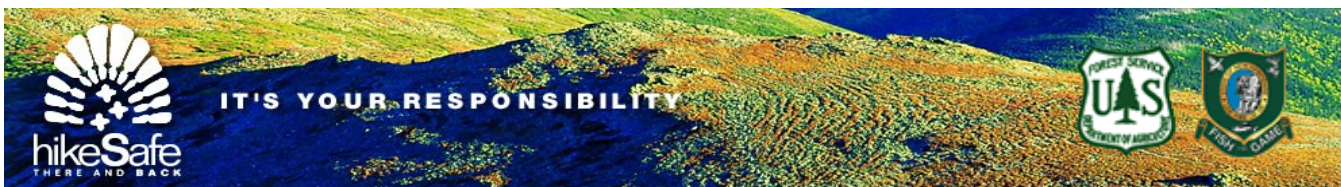
* Mulch that is piled more than a few inches high can build up heat and spontaneously catch fire.

* In many mulch fires, the smoldering mulch tunnels under the surface and then breaks out into open flame.

* Mulch fires start more readily when the weather is hot and it has been dry for an extended time.

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NH HIKING SAFETY



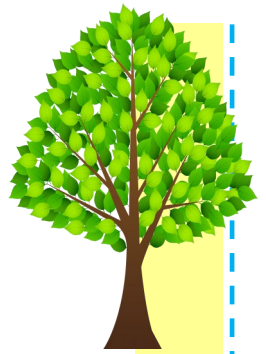
Take a break from spring cleaning and enjoy the beautiful mountains of NH. Just remember no matter the season, a short hike or a multi-day trek everyone must be safe and prepared. Follow the *Hiker Responsibility Code*.

You are responsible for yourself, so **be prepared...**

1. **With knowledge and gear.** Become self reliant by learning about the terrain, conditions, local weather and your equipment before you start.
2. **To leave your plans.** Tell someone where you are going, the trails you are hiking, when you will return and your emergency plans.
3. **To stay together.** When you start as a group, hike as a group, end as a group. Pace your hike to the slowest person.
4. **To turn back.** Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Fatigue and unexpected conditions can also affect your hike. Know your limitations and when to postpone your hike. The mountains will be there another day.
5. **For emergencies.** Even if you are headed out for just an hour, an injury, severe weather or a wrong turn could become life threatening. Don't assume you will be rescued; know how to rescue yourself.
6. **To share the hiker code with others.**



[Learn More](#)



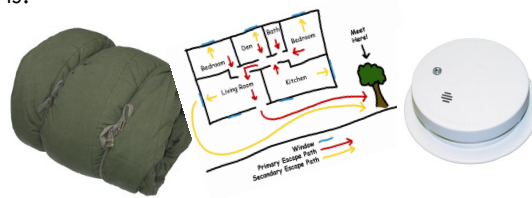


SLEEPOVER SAFETY

Think upset tummies and lack of sleep are your biggest concerns when your child is spending the night at his or her friend's house? Think again! Before you permit your child to sleep over at a friend's house, talk to the child's parents about fire safety within their home. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind about your child's sleepover.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), eight out of ten fire deaths take place in the home, with the majority of home fire deaths occurring late at night. If you don't know for certain that the friend's home is equipped with working smoke alarms, and that the sleepover will be supervised by an adult, don't take the risk; reverse the invitation and have the sleepover at your own home.

Teach your child about the importance of fire escape planning in a positive, non-threatening way. Ideally, your child will be well versed in **home fire escape planning** and drills in your own home. Before you permit a sleepover at a friend's, discuss the importance of knowing how to escape from a fire wherever you are, including a friend's home. Empower your child to ask friends and their parents about fire safety in their home, and to report anything that makes them feel unsafe. Remember, when it's your turn to host other children overnight in your home, make sure they know what your fire escape plan is.



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BABYSITTER SAFETY

Having a babysitter can give you peace of mind. It allows you to leave your child with someone you trust. Be sure your babysitter knows about fire safety. Be sure your babysitter knows what to do if there is a fire.

Show the babysitter your home escape plan and make sure the babysitter understands:

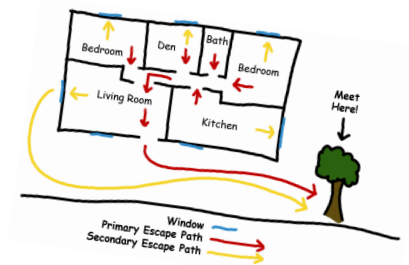
- * two ways out of every room.
- * where the outdoor meeting place is located.
- * the fire department or emergency phone number.
- * how to unlock all doors and windows.

If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter:

- * keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- * keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the microwave oven.
- * never leaves the room while cooking.
- * keeps anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- * keeps pets off surfaces and countertops.

If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to:

- * get out of the home quickly with your child to safety.
- * use the second way out if smoke is in the way.
- * get low and go under the smoke to the exit if an escape must be made through smoke.



LEARN MORE

Paul J. Parisi
NH State Fire Marshal



**NH STATE FIRE MARSHAL
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
Phone: (603)223-4289
Arson Hotline:
1-800-400-3526
FMO@dos.nh.gov

**PUBLIC EDUCATION
SECTION:**

K9 District Chief:

Stacey Dubois

EDUCATORS:

Sheryl Nielsen
Mary MacCaffrie
Amy McLaughlin

Message from Marshal Parisi:

Are you as eager for the spring weather to arrive in New Hampshire as I am? Spring gives us so many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. I have another question for you. Have you taken this time to inspect your home to see if it is ready for spring? This in-between season weather creates a great opportunity for you to inspect, and improve the safety of things around your home. There is no better feeling than knowing you have made sure your family, and home, has a fresh and safer start to the upcoming months. Use this newsletter to help create your checklist to include indoor and outdoor tasks. Be sure to include cleaning your dryer of any lint buildup. While laundry is a never ending task, we must be sure that the lint filter is being cleaned with each load to avoid the risk of fire. Be sure to inspect, clean or even replace the flexible vent pipe. This will ensure that there is no lint build up and that the outdoor vent flap is properly working.

As always, I must strongly encourage you to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Batteries should have been replaced last month with the time change. If they weren't, please take the time today to replace them today. No alarm should be older than 10 years old; if they are, it must be replaced. Take the time to update your family's escape plan with two ways out of every room. This will ensure that every member of the family knows what to do in the event of an emergency and blocked doorway. Discuss your safe meeting place away from the home and how 9-1-1 will be called from that location. Include all family members in a practice drill. Should you need assistance or have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your local fire department or to contact the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.

Paul J. Parisi
NH State Fire Marshal



K9, Student and Parent Approved Websites:

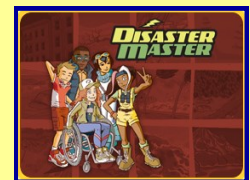
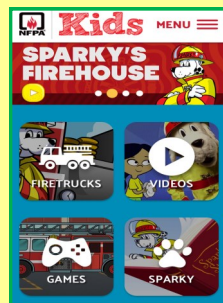
While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play we understand that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So when it comes to computer time...



try any one of these child friendly fire and life safety websites!

Just click a picture to open the link and play.

Have fun learning to be safer!



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



Sheryl Nielsen

Public Education Specialist

Youth Firesetter Intervention & Education

Sheryl.Nielsen@dos.nh.gov

603-223-4289