

Information for Renters

- Working smoke alarms protect you, your family, and your neighbors.
- If you need assistance with a smoke alarm, contact your landlord or TVF&R.
- Your landlord is responsible for providing a working smoke alarm for your rental housing, however, you are responsible for testing and maintaining your smoke alarm.
- Keep exits clear of tripping hazards and obstacles which may prevent a safe exit.
- Never store combustibles in a stairwell.
- Do not block fire hydrants or park in marked fire lanes.
- Consider obtaining renter's insurance. The insurance carried by your landlord does not cover your personal possessions.



**In case of emergency
Call 9-1-1**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Serving the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Newberg, North Plains, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, and Wilsonville, along with surrounding communities within portions of unincorporated Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties.



www.tvfr.com
503-649-8577

Prevent • Prepare • Respond



Keeping It Cozy!



Fireplace Safety



Before You Begin

- Check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working!
- Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned as necessary. Cracks and build-up of creosote can bring deadly carbon monoxide into your home.
- Make sure the damper is open and check the flue for obstructions. (Your chimney should have a screened cap to prevent birds from nesting inside.)
- Make sure there are no overhanging branches or large trees near your chimney.
- Clear the area around your fireplace of combustibles, including clothing, decorations, furniture, and magazines/papers.
- Have a fire extinguisher on hand and know how to use it.



Building the Fire

- Choose the right fuels. Hardwoods (oak, hickory, ash, etc.) burn cleaner than softwoods (fir, pine, cedar, etc.).
- Choose firewood that has been seasoned at least six months to ensure a cleaner burning fire, which will reduce flammable soot.



- Place larger logs at the rear, preferably on top of a metal grate, with kindling in front (or use a manufactured fire starter product).
- If you use a manufactured fire log, follow the product's directions and only burn one log at a time. These logs are not designed for burning in pre-fabricated fireplaces due to the extreme heat they produce.
- Use caution when adding wood. Partially burned logs can roll forward or collapse causing injury.
- Have a safety screen or glass door in place to prevent embers from starting a fire and to prevent burns or injuries.
- Slightly open a window across the room to establish a fresh air supply. This also helps to carry smoke up the chimney.
- **Never Burn:**
 - Laminated or treated wood products (i.e., stained or painted wood, plywood, particle board, etc.).
 - Trash (i.e., household garbage, cardboard boxes, piles of paper, magazines, colored newspapers, or wrapping paper). All these items produce toxic chemicals when burned!
 - Holiday or Christmas trees.
 - Charcoal. (Charcoal produces deadly amounts of carbon monoxide!)
- **Never use a flammable liquid!** Fumes from gasoline, kerosene, or lighter fluid will collect indoors and may explode.

After Enjoying the Fire

- Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Do not close the damper until all embers are cool.
- Maintain your fireplace by periodically removing ash buildup.
- Ashes need to be thoroughly cooled and disposed of in a metal can with a tight-fitting lid that is used only for storing ashes. The can should be kept outside and away from any structures or combustibles.
- **Never** dispose of hot ashes in a compost pile, paper bag, box, or any other combustible containers, such as a plastic garbage can or yard waste barrel. Ashes can stay hot for up to five days!

