

February
2022

Fire Line Newsletter

In This Issue:

From the Balcony –
*A Message from
Chief O’Leary*

Words of Wisdom
- *AC Gerritson*

Operations by the
Numbers / New
Construction

Situational
Awareness
– *AC Janquart*

News at the
Station

Finding the Fire
– *AC Knowles*

Furnace & Heating
Equipment Safety
- *DC Schumacher*

Clothes Dryer
Safety Tips



From the Balcony – Lucky 7

January 10, 2022 was a monumental day for us at Fond du Lac Fire Rescue (FDLFR). Just as Engineer Kevin Doll was receiving a Proclamation and *Key To The City*, from City Council President Kay Miller at fire station two, seven lucky recruits were preparing to report to duty for the very first time at our headquarters. Normally we would have been hosting a recruit academy for one, but thanks to our city staff, elected leaders, our members and most importantly, the people of Fond du Lac we are ushering in a total of seven recruits! The six additional personnel will be utilized to increase staffing for a fourth Advanced Life Support Ambulance which we hope to have in-service in the second half of the year.

The training for the recruits will be intense over the next month after which they will split up in teams of two on three shifts where they will continue their training and getting equipped for what we hope will be decades of service to our community. We are fortunate to have a strong supporting cast of instructors, and mentors who will be working closely with our recruits during their probationary time to ensure they are prepared to adequately perform the job functions required to be a firefighter/paramedic at FDLFR.

We should all take this opportunity to welcome our newest members, encourage

them, teach them and hold them accountable to the mission and values we practice on a regular and consistent basis. It’s a time for us to retool ourselves, sharpen our own skills and share our knowledge. We all share in the responsibility in their growth and with seven new recruits at once, there will be enough work to go around.

Together we can help make the “Lucky 7” fell us that. Thank you for your willingness to get involved.

*Until Next Month,
Be Safe and Be Well*

**Fire Chief
Peter O’Leary**



FOND DU LAC FIRE RESCUE OPERATIONS

By: Assistant Chief
Erick Gerritson



What words of wisdom would you tell your rookie self?

With the 2022 recruit class in full swing at Fond du Lac Fire Rescue, it is easy to reflect back to the days when we were all “bright-eyed and bushy-tailed” walking through the doors of the fire house for the first time. With the thoughts from the “glory years” fresh in mind, I came across a great article about what advice you could give yourself as a rookie to better prepare for your new career. Much of the advice offered can not only be heeded by the new hires, but can also be applied to the seasoned veterans.

As the millennial generation moves into leadership and management roles, the next rookie generation has arrived in Generation Z.

But, regardless of generation, a newbie is still a newbie. We asked FireRescue1 readers to think back to their firefighting years and offer the best piece of advice they would give to themselves as a rookie.

If you're just joining the department, these comments offer a look at what the seasoned firefighters of today wish they had known going in. Or, if you're one fire away from hanging up your turnout gear for good, leave some hard-earned advice for the rookies of today that you wish you'd known back then.

No matter what generation you are (or claim!), these nuggets of wisdom offer something for everyone.

ADVICE FROM FORMER ROOKIES

- Treat everyone with respect, always, even if you have run the call on them every day of your shift, they should still get respect. And remember, the public is always watching.
- Know the protocols by heart. Observe and learn from your officers, know the responsibilities of the officer above you. Organize your learning and complete one learning task at a time (i.e., Engine, Med, and Rescue). Be confident, not cocky. Ask for help.
- Keep a journal of what you observe and experience with leaders and followers that you interact with in your career. Do this on your first day until the day you retire. Periodically review your entries to remind yourself what you saw as good traits of strong leaders and the weak points of leaders/followers as you progress through the ranks. You will be amazed at the amount of personal introspection this method can provide in your development as a great leader and exceptional follower!
- Find the balance between your personal life and your professional life and leave work at work.
- Keep your mouth shut, ears open only to education and criticism, and stay off Facebook until all chores are done and you know each truck inside and out. Better yet, stay off Facebook completely. It's called a phone call.
- Believe in yourself. You can do this and do it well!
- Keep your mouth shut and your ears open!
- Don't ever take off your face piece inside the structure, even when the flames are gone.
- Never turn down an opportunity to train, grow and develop, you never know what doors it might open.
- Spend all the quality time that you can with your brothers because they can disappear fast.
- Don't just learn the process to pass a test – understand the reason behind the process. You need to know the “why” so you can adapt your approach dynamically in all situations.
- Be nice. Always wear your full protective gear.
- Do YOUR job to the best of your ability, all the time, and keep your mouth shut.
- Clean your gear more often...dirty gear is not cool!
- Bring your own bed linens on your first shift.
- The senior man is just as important to your career growth and gaining knowledge as any book, lecture or class that you will ever take.
- Slow down and enjoy the ride. Don't try and climb the ladder so fast.
- Never stop learning and take every opportunity to make

Words of Wisdom... Continued



- a difference.
- Two ears and one mouth...there is a reason for that, kid!
 - Don't let the negativity get you down. Embrace every education opportunity you can and don't let anyone tell you that you don't need it.
 - Act professional. Train like your life depends on it. Attitude is everything,

- keep a positive one. Show respect to everyone you come in contact with. Stay out of the gossip. Come to work ready to work. Don't ask someone to do something you wouldn't do. Stay fit. Lead by example no matter what position you hold in the organization.
- Listen twice as much as you speak. Learn to take

criticism and don't beat yourself up if you make mistakes, no one is perfect. Love the job.

- Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something. Don't learn the tricks of the trade, until you learn the trade!
- Keep fit, stick with the old guys, pick their brains, know your streets, and never get too comfortable.

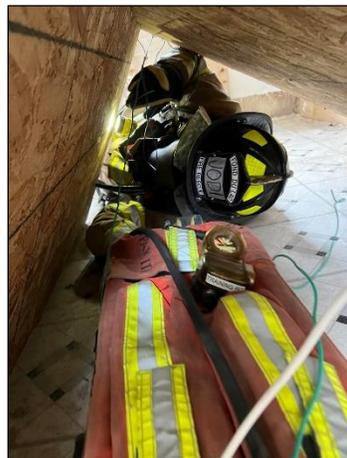
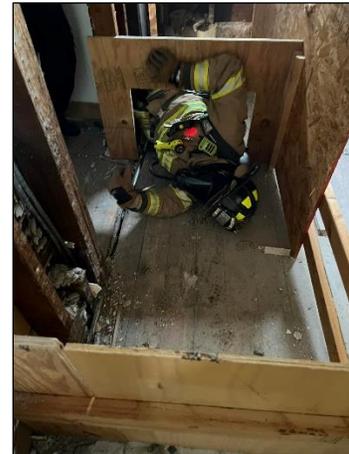
Never be afraid to ask for help. You have the best job in the world.

Reference: Rachel Engel from www.firerescue1.com

**Until Next Month...
Stay Safe!!!**



The recruits tackled fire fighter survival and critical thinking skills by using their senses to move through an obstacle course with various pass-throughs and wire entanglements. This training is part of our new recruit academy.



Operations by the Numbers

December, 2021	By Month		Year-To-Date	
	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year
PREVENTION				
Total Inspections	287	443	2516	2897
Total Defects	74	165	1175	1208
SUPPRESSION				
Alarms Involving Fire	10	7	129	104
Fire Mutual Aid Given	2	2	14	16
Fire Mutual Aid Received	1	0	4	5
Service/Good Intent Calls	45	45	589	566
False Alarms/False Calls	23	26	307	350
Other Calls	16	10	174	133
Total Fire Alarms & Calls	94	88	1199	1153
EMS				
Total Ambulance Calls	583	580	6402	6477
Total Fire/EMS Responses	677	668	7601	7630
Fire Property Loss	\$26,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$289,700.00	\$433,243.00
Fire Contents Loss	\$12,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$404,571.00	\$182,465.00
Engine Assisted EMS Calls	237	251	2719	2568



Current Status of New Construction

- River Hills Mixed Use Development on S. Main St. – *Building 12 is under construction*
- Forest Mall / TJ Max – *TJ Max Complete; Meijer Project still in the works*
- Sister Catherine Drexel Homeless Shelter – *Under Construction*
- BCI Burke – *Addition beginning*
- Hobby Lobby – *Construction/Renovation has started*
- Summit Auto – *Addition will be starting soon*
- Brooke Street Lofts – *Planning Phase*
- Kwik Trip (Schreiners) – *Demolition Completed*
- Taco Johns (West Johnson) – *Under Construction*
- Korneli's on the Ave (Formerly Spectrum) - *Complete*



The Code Summary

By: Assistant Chief Todd Janquart

Situational Awareness (and happiness) Require Focus

What are you doing to enhance situational awareness and reduce multitasking in a world increasingly consumed with distraction?

According to MIT neuroscientist Dr. Earl Miller, the human brain can't multitask. Through neuroimaging, he and his colleagues have shown that multitasking isn't doing two things at once. It is, instead, your prefrontal cortex—the part of your brain involved in focus and decision making—switching between tasks and inputs rapidly. This back-and-forth, stop-and-start approach not only kills productivity and creativity, they find, but it also causes unnecessary mistakes. Other research shows that those who think they are good multitaskers, in most cases, are instead good at deluding themselves.

What does this have to do with first responders? A lot. For one thing, making a mistake as a first responder can have dire consequences. Mistaking a cellphone for a gun, for example, or administering an incorrect medication in the field might mean the difference between life and death. Discernment in real-world situations that are often uncertain and quickly evolving is often referred to as situational awareness. This skill is, rightly, prized by first responders.

Clearly, true situational

awareness requires attention and focus. The challenge for today's first responder is the proliferation of events, devices and preoccupations vying for that attention: Radio traffic, in-car computers and smartphones, of course, but also increasingly complex roles and relationships within their communities. They have never had more to contend with or more roles to play. It's not just first responders: We are all regularly inundated with information, choices and various stimuli vying to attract or distract us. Social media is just one example.



The challenge for today's first responder is the proliferation of events, devices and preoccupations vying for that attention: Radio traffic, in-car computers and smartphones, of course, but also increasingly complex roles and relationships within their communities.

Dr. Eric S. Toner defines situational awareness as understanding what is going on around you, with an emphasis on actionable information. Recall John Boyd's OODA Loop (observe, orient, decide, act). You are either "in the loop" or "out of the loop". OODA requires a constant appraisal and reappraisal of what's going on in the theater of action. In other words, it requires relaxed and focused attention on the world

around you.

Given the stakes of your work as a public safety professional, what are you to do to enhance situational awareness and reduce multitasking in a world increasingly consumed with distraction?

Decide what matters. *Below 100* is an incredibly successful initiative to drive down preventable law enforcement deaths in the line of duty. One of its tenets: What's important now (WIN)? Football great Lou Holtz is credited with this concept and instructed players to ask themselves this question routinely—and with great success. What warrants your primary attention now? What can wait? If it can wait, let it.

Cut down on clutter. There is advantage to technological minimalism in this busy world. Do you need Facebook on your phone? There may be an excellent reason for it but evaluate these decisions on their merits rather than reflexively accepting new stuff in your life. Moreover, can you reset the perimeter so as to minimize outside interference with the crime scene or fireground? Can you delegate responsibility to, say, the PIO or peer support lead and instead focus on your work?

Accept that some things are out of your control. First responders in particular like to fix situations. This is good and natural. But some things you fix, remove or change. You might want to, but it's not possible. Some patients will be difficult.

De-escalation techniques, in some cases, will not work. There's only so much you can do. So instead focus your energies into what you are able to control.

Practice concentration. Cultivate a hobby you enjoy, like drawing or soccer. Or simply focus on a habit, such as brushing your teeth, putting on your shoes or doing dishes. The idea is to simply concentrate on the task at hand and enjoy the pleasure of it completely. As your ability to concentrate improves, bring this practice into the world and make a point of being present, aware and relaxed in what it is that you are doing, on and off the job. Another word for this: Mindfulness.

FOCUS IS GOOD FOR US
A final reason to cut through the clutter and focus on what matters in life is that studies show it makes us happier. The co-author of one such study, Harvard's Dr. Daniel Gilbert told the *New York Times*, "I find it kind of weird now to look down a crowded street and realize that half the people aren't really there." Instead, their minds are wandering (anxieties, guilts, daydreams), and it's affecting their wellbeing. Don't let that be you. You're a first responder and we need you to be present to do your job well. We also need you to be happy. Focus up!

Article from the 12/27/2021 online edition of EMS1.com

The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress - Frederick Douglass



FDL Fire/Rescue bid a fond farewell to Engineer Kevin Doll who retired after faithfully serving the citizens of Fond du Lac for 30 years!
Congratulations to Kevin and his family!



Welcome to the new recruits who began their training on January 10th. This recruit class of seven will undergo an intense 4 week academy and a year long probation period. We are grateful to have a state of the art Public Safety Training Center and outstanding personnel to provide our recruits with a great place to learn and develop. Welcome to Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue Jodi Peterson, Clare Wolf, Gavin Forster (front row), Quinn Kaiser, Mike Griffey, Michael Huotari, Patrick Hart (back row).



25 Years of Service
at FDLFR
First Day: 2.24.1997



AC of Training/Safety
James Knowles III



20 Years of Service
at FDLFR
First Day: 2.11.2002



Firefighter/Paramedic
Brian Winter



Firefighter/Paramedic
Adam King

5 Years of Service
at FDLFR
First Day:
2.24.1997



Firefighter/Paramedic
Brett Hefty



Happy February Birthday

John Hicken • Erick Gerritson • Jack Prall
Dusten Hilgendorf • Jake Vogds • Jed Rathke • Adam King

Well-trained people are the best defense against fire.

By: Assistant Chief of Training/Safety
James Knowles III

Finding the Fire Using the Cool Air Gravity Current

The cool air gravity current is the path of air/oxygen feeding the fire as it enters from a ventilation point and travels toward the fire in the lower atmosphere near the floor. We are all aware of ventilation as it relates to getting the heat, smoke, and toxic gases out of the building in the upper atmosphere. However, let's take a look at how fresh air/oxygen comes into the fire area in the lower atmosphere and feeds the fire to sustain the burning process, creating a cool air gravity current, and how we can use this to locate the seat of a fire.

Fresh air/oxygen enters the structure from ventilation points, even if it is your point of entry. This flow of air/oxygen lays out a path directly to the seat of the fire as it feeds the fire.

Often, we can locate the fire fairly rapidly and make a quick knock on it. However, in some instances, it can be more challenging. In those situations, following the cool air gravity current may be helpful in locating the fire more rapidly. It may not always be visible in extremely heavy smoke and high-heat conditions—in these situations, it may be necessary to evacuate to a safer location and ventilate the area to allow the cool air gravity current to resume and then proceed to locate the seat of the fire. Use caution when ventilating so as not to create a fire flow path toward your crew and place them in a more hazardous position. Well-coordinated ventilation is always essential!

Throughout our basic and advanced training, we have been taught that a fire starts in the smoldering stage, it progresses to the growth (flaming) stage, flashover occurs, and then the fire transitions into the decay stage. Smoke rises to the ceiling, spreading across to the walls, and then mushrooms downward until it finds the path of least resistance and moves to the next room. We've seen the benefits of reading smoke from the exterior of the building to determine what is going on inside the building. We have all seen the fire flow path and the benefits of learning this. However, little emphasis has been placed on air and smoke movement near the floor, in the lower atmosphere or the cool air gravity currents. Lower atmosphere air movement is pulling in the required air/oxygen to sustain the burning process; thus, the cool air gravity current can be defined as air/oxygen that enters in the lower atmosphere; is drawn toward the fire; becomes consumed by the fire; is converted to heat, smoke, and toxic gases from the burning process; and then is expelled into the upper atmosphere and exits the structure. Look at cool air gravity currents more closely to help you find the fire faster and more efficiently when other indicators have not worked.

Because of more synthetic products, today's fires burn much hotter and with more intensity than in the past. The newer buildings of lightweight construction give us little time to work. Double-/triple-pane insulated windows make the building more airtight, allowing the fire to grow more rapidly and

with more intensity. Increased British thermal units from the synthetic products allow for a more rapid production of thermal radiation feedback into the room, resulting in flashover occurring faster than ever. The upper atmosphere contains the heat, smoke, and toxic gases released by the fire. Contained and without ventilation, the smoke and heat build and drop to the floor, making a room untenable. Thermal radiation feedback causes everything to heat up in the room and flashover occurs.

Ventilation allows smoke and heat to exit the structure, sometimes with force. Additionally, ventilation provides a source for fresh air/oxygen to enter. The heat and smoke exit the ventilation point in the upper atmosphere, while the fresh air/oxygen enters in the lower atmosphere, creating the cool air gravity current. The cool air gravity current brings in the cooler, denser fresh air as it flows under the less dense hot and buoyant air. The simple task of forcing the door for entry creates a ventilation point and creates a point of entry for fresh air/oxygen to feed the fire. Even with vertical ventilation, fresh air/oxygen is pulled into the fire area from someplace—possibly from the point of entry you made.

Too often, we focus on or react to what occurs in the upper atmosphere while giving little regard to what may be occurring closer to the floor (lower atmosphere). Pay close attention to the cool air gravity current when you enter a structure and begin searching

for the seat of the fire. Cooler, denser air and smoke that drop down from the upper atmosphere and into the cool air gravity current are now moving toward the fire mixed with the fresh air/oxygen. Following this smoke on the floor can lead you directly to the seat of the fire. The lower atmosphere is where you also will find a cooler environment in which to operate and where most victims with a better chance of survival are found because it is cooler and provides more oxygen than the upper atmosphere.

There are many ways of locating the seat of the fire and a variety of techniques used. A good size-up and general knowledge of building construction help; thermal imaging makes it easy. Unfortunately, not everyone is carrying a thermal imaging camera (TIC), and sometimes the smoke is so thick you can't see the TIC screen. This is when you have to search to find those deep-seated fires with heavy interior smoke conditions. For your safety, constantly check the floor under you as you advance, but have you ever really noticed the smoke down there? This smoke is moving toward the fire, sometimes very rapidly, carrying the needed fresh air to feed the fire.

The Technique

When you're at an intersection while advancing a handline, how do you determine which way to turn?

Finding Fire Using the Cool Gravity Air Current... Continued

Turning in the wrong direction will cost you valuable time, time that you do not have, when it's your responsibility to get water on the fire. It is your responsibility to protect the primary search crews. It is your responsibility to protect an interior stairwell, and the best way to do it is to get water on the fire.

You sometimes can feel a heat difference to determine the direction in which to head. That, however, it is not always possible. Turnout gear has offered some of the best thermal protection we have ever seen. However, it provides so much protection that temperature changes around us can sometimes go unnoticed. Following the smoke traveling at floor level, when you're able to see it, will almost always lead you directly to the fire.

As a young firefighter, full of energy and pumped up with adrenalin, you may not feel the heat and the direction it is coming from as you move forward toward a fire. As you gain experience and more knowledge of the environment in which you operate, you become more aware of your surroundings and pay closer attention to the temperature changes. Now pay closer attention to the lower atmosphere and the cool air gravity current. You can see smoke travel; even if you have to put your face piece to the floor and shine your light, you may be able to see the direction the smoke is moving.

This technique may also be of value to the search and rescue crews who move ahead of the handline to perform a primary search, locate the fire quickly, search the fire area, and then search back to the point of entry. Also, it can be used during vent-enter-search when

you enter through a window to do a rapid search under deteriorating conditions. Making your entry through a window, it is critical to quickly close the door to the room to buy time to perform a search of the room. The window you opened to enter has just created a ventilation point as well as a cool air gravity current. This ventilation point has now created a point of entry for fresh air/oxygen to feed the fire. The fresh air immediately drops to the floor (and hopefully you did too!); now the flow of air across the floor leads to that door you need to close.

Follow a search pattern! Do not wander off to the middle of the room following the smoke without a hoseline or search rope. Stay safe; stay on the walls, keep your orientation, but also watch that air flow in the lower atmosphere. It may get you to that door faster, maybe allowing you to pass over an open closet door that serves as a false sense of security when you closed it. That cool air gravity current and smoke on the floor are moving toward that doorway, and you are still not safe to conduct your search until that door is closed.

Advancing in on a basement fire with no exterior entrance, we've always been told it's much cooler when we get to the bottom and to stay low. Why is it cooler? It is cooler because the fresh air feeding the fire is being drawn from a ventilation point in the lower atmosphere or a cool air gravity current. As you advance down, ensure the stairs are intact as you proceed. When you arrive on the basement floor, again, pay close attention to that lower atmosphere. The heat, smoke, and toxic gases will flow over your head, upward, and out of the basement entrance; the cooler gravity current is moving toward the seat of the fire.

Basement fire tactics can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but rapidly getting water on the fire makes all things better.

Used at a Fire

I was a new lieutenant on an engine company. We arrived on the scene of a large two-story single-family residence of lightweight construction. After determining we had a working basement fire with extremely heavy smoke conditions and no exterior basement entrance, we advanced our handline down the interior stairs and reached the bottom. There was absolutely no evidence of where this fire was located. Smoke was banked to the floor, heat was increasing throughout, and we were just not sure in which direction to head to locate this fire in a very large basement. Feeling pretty uncomfortable at this point, I requested an exterior basement window to be ventilated. Once the window was vented, the cool air gravity current changed and the smoke lifted slightly. The fire grew quickly and started drawing more fresh air/oxygen in from the interior stairwell that we entered. This allowed us to follow the cool air gravity current and make a great stop on a rapidly developing fire that was very close to collapsing a section of floor above us.

As the smoke lifted, we saw the basement had exposed lightweight wooden I-beams above us. The room above us was now showing signs of a sagging floor. Quick extinguishment of this fire prevented a lightweight floor collapse that may have seriously injured my crew or worse. The newer buildings of lightweight construction today do not allow us much time, considering the structure can fail six to 12 minutes after the fire attacks the structural

components. The inherent nature of lightweight construction allows for larger void spaces in the structure. Once the fire enters the voids and attacks exposed structural components, the fire spreads rapidly and the time clock starts for structural failure, thus making it even more important than ever for quick water on the fire.

Paying more attention to the lower atmosphere where this cool air gravity current occurs may allow us the opportunity to get water on the fire more rapidly and improve the overall conditions of the building much faster. Nothing makes a chief happier than seeing black, brownish/yellow smoke turn to steam. It may also allow you, when searching ahead of the nozzle, to find the fire more rapidly and start a search in the fire area. Add this tool to your toolbox for the future. Consider this on the next fire you go to or even the next training fire you attend. Pay closer attention to the cool air gravity current and use this to expand your knowledge in finding the fire.

Source: Daley, R. 2021. Finding the fire using the cool air gravity current. Fire Engineering.

Retrieved from:
<https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/finding-the-fire-using-the-cool-air-gravity-current/>

Fire Prevention

The Bureau Never Sleeps

By: Division Chief Garth Schumacher



Furnace and Heating Equipment

I hope this month's *Fire Line* article finds all of you healthy and ready for the start of warmer weather, the days are getting a bit longer and the weather will certainly continue to be up and down for a while yet, but milder temps should be here before we know it.

One area that I would like to touch on for this Fire Line that doesn't get much attention is home heating, primarily when we talk about gas forced air units and the issues outside that can affect their performance. Most homes today are serviced by forced air heating and cooling units that vent to the outside. These units, especially in our great State are subject to the extreme temperature fluctuations. For this reason it is important to make check these areas outside our home for the accumulation of snow and ice as well as the periodic maintenance of these units and the regular changing of furnace filters.

The following two photographs are good illustrations of how to keep these areas clear as well as what to look for as far as issues associated with the accumulation of snow and ice.



When these vents become obstructed, among one of the worst things that can happen is the significant increase of Carbon Monoxide within the home. When these vents become obstructed the gases normally vented outside of the home can no longer be exhausted properly and those gases then have no other avenue than to vent inside the home. This creates a highly toxic and hazardous atmosphere in the home and can lead to injury or death. It is also important to stress the importance of

carbon monoxide detectors on every habitable level of the home, this is not only good practice, and it is actually required of every residence in the state by **Wisconsin SPS 362.0915**, violations of this can and may very well end up in penalties when found to be non-compliant.

For those of us that have wood burning fireplaces, stoves, and pellet burners, we must remember to have the fire box and chimney cleaned or swept and inspected on an annual basis. The accumulation of creosote associated with wood burning can also create a hazard inside the chimney flue and associated components of these stoves. When the creosote builds up it can create the potential for a chimney fire, which can quickly spread to the attic, walls, and ceilings of your home and create significant damage, not to mention all of the danger associated with home fires that have the potential to injure the occupants of the residence. Checking and maintaining our furnaces, fireplaces,

and other heating appliances realistically only takes minutes for us to check or schedule with a reputable professional. We do this for our vehicles, power equipment, and pretty much anything else that needs a periodic checkup or service. We often forget about the easiest of things to look at that really takes the least amount of time. If you made it this far in my article, make a note to do a quick 360 of your residence today and make sure that none of these issues are creeping up on you!

*Thanks for reading,
until next month,
stay safe!*



Heating fire facts

Based on 2014-2018 annual averages:

- Most home heating fire deaths (81%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (25%) was failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Half of the home heating fire deaths were caused by having heating equipment to close too things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing mattresses or bedding.
- Nearly half (48%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

Source: NFPA Applied Research



Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did 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 or after each 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 more often 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 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.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

- ❗ The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Seguridad en el uso del Secarropas

Lavar la ropa es probablemente parte de la rutina diaria. ¿Pero alguna vez pensó en lo importante que es el cuidado de la secadora en términos de la seguridad de su vivienda? Con algunos simples consejos de seguridad, puede ayudar a evitar que se produzca un incendio en su secadora.

- » Instale y haga el mantenimiento de su secadora con un profesional.
- » No use su secadora sin un filtro para pelusas.
- » Asegúrese de limpiar el filtro para pelusas antes o después de cada carga de ropa.
- » Remueva la pelusa que se haya juntado en el tambor.
- » Asegúrese que la tubería de ventilación no se encuentre obstruida y que la clapeta de ventilación exterior se abra cuando la secadora esté en funcionamiento. Una vez al año, o con mayor frecuencia si usted nota que el secado de su ropa toma más tiempo de lo habitual, remueva la pelusa de los tubos de ventilación o llame al servicio técnico para que lo haga por usted.
- » Mantenga su secadora en buenas condiciones de funcionamiento. Las secadoras a gas deben ser inspeccionadas por un profesional calificado para asegurar que las tuberías y conexiones de gas se encuentran intactas y libres de pérdidas.
- » Asegúrese de utilizar los enchufes y tomacorrientes adecuados y que la máquina se encuentre correctamente conectada.
- » Siga las instrucciones de uso del fabricante y no sobrecargue su secadora.
- » Apague su secadora cuando sale de su casa o cuando se va a dormir.

Y NO SE OLVIDE QUE...

Las secadoras deben contar con una correcta **conexión a tierra**.

Verifique que la clapeta de **ventilación exterior** no esté cubierta de nieve.

Mantenga el área cercana a su secadora **libre** de objetos que puedan encenderse tales como cajas, elementos de limpieza, ropa, etc.

La ropa o los trapos que hayan estado en contacto con **sustancias inflamables** tales como gasolina, disolvente para pintura o solventes similares, deben secarse en el exterior para luego ser lavados y secados de la manera habitual.

¡ES UN HECHO!

- ⚠ Que la principal causa de incendios de secadoras es la falta de limpieza.



Su fuente de información de Seguridad

División de educación pública de NFPA • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education