



Direct Line

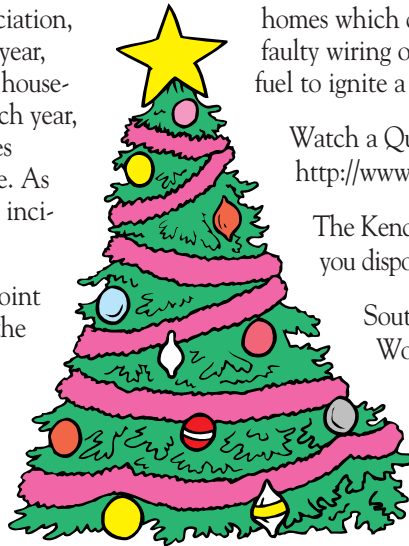
A Publication of the Commissioners of Fire District #1 in South Brunswick

Winter 2006

DISPOSE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE SAFELY

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 33 million natural Christmas trees are sold each year, which means that nearly one-third of American households have a live or cut tree inside the home. Each year, newspapers are filled with tragic stories of families killed by fires that are ignited by a Christmas tree. As the season progresses and trees become drier, the incidence of Christmas tree fires worsens.

In residential structure fires where the ignition point is a Christmas tree or other holiday decoration, the fire is typically more severe in every measurable way. Injuries, fatalities, and property loss are higher than average. This is indicative of the potentially rapid ignition and spread of a tree or decoration fire. In reaction to winter's cold weather, most people turn up the heat in their



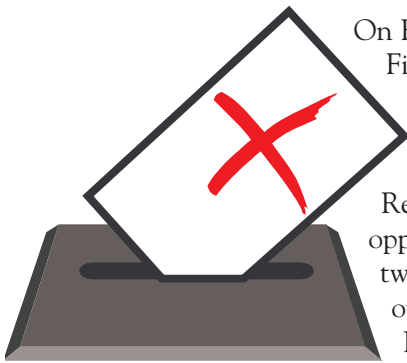
homes which dries Christmas trees even more. Coupled with faulty wiring or lit candles, a Christmas tree provides sufficient fuel to ignite a serious fire.

Watch a Quicktime movie of a Christmas tree fire at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/media/fire3.qt>.

The Kendall Park Volunteer Fire Company recommends that you dispose of your Christmas tree as early as possible.

South Brunswick Township Department of Public Works is collecting unadorned trees through January 16. Leave the tree only (no decorations, no stands, no bags) by the curb in front of your home, if you live in a single-family house. If you live in a multi-family complex, leave the tree outside the nearest dumpster.

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 18, 2006



On February 18, 2006, Fire District No. 1 will hold elections at the Kendall Park Firehouse on New Road. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on two issues: the election of one member to the Board of Fire Commissioners and the proposed district budget.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Voters may elect one members to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The sole candidate as of publication of this newsletter is James McIntyre.

Additional information about the budget or Commissioner elections can be found in the South Brunswick Post or The Sentinel. You may also call 297-9900 with specific questions.

2006 OPERATING BUDGET

The proposed budget for Fire District No. 1 is \$748,500, and the amount to be raised by taxation will be \$703,000.

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE FOR WINTER

Fuel-burning appliances present a variety of safety hazards, so it is important that they are installed and maintained properly. Be sure to annually inspect and clean all equipment, and use a carbon monoxide detector.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas. It is poisonous to people and animals. It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum, oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce CO. Burning charcoal and running cars produce CO.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, hundreds of people in the US die from CO produced by fuel-burning appliances, from burning charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent or from cars left running in attached garages.

The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without fever) and include: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed. CO can make you feel sleepy, or, can prevent you from waking up. At higher concentrations,

you can experience impaired vision and coordination, headaches; dizziness, confusion, and nausea. In very high concentrations, CO poisoning can be fatal.

BUY AND INSTALL CO DETECTORS/ALARMS

- Make sure the CO detector is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).
- Install a CO detector in the hallway near each sleeping area. Make sure it cannot be covered up by furniture or draperies. Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the specific location where to install it. Avoid corners (where air does not circulate).
- CO detectors should be used in boats and recreational vehicles. The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association requires CO detectors/alarms to be installed in motor homes and in towable recreational vehicles that have a generator or are prepped for a generator.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT CO POISONING?

- Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes. A CO detector can provide added protection, but is no substitute for proper use and upkeep of appliances.

- Have the heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually. Check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
- Only burn charcoal outdoors, never inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Do not use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Turn off any gas-powered engine (car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, lawn mower, chain saw, or generator) inside an attached garage or basement. Even if the garage door is open, you can still be affected or killed by CO. If you must test the engine, take it outdoors before starting it.
- Refer to the owner's manual when performing minor adjustments or servicing fuel-burning appliances, and get help from a professional if you are unsure how to service such equipment.
- Do not use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- If you use a fuel-burning appliance for approved indoor uses (such as a heater), make sure it is vented to the outdoors following manufacturer's instructions. Do not use an unvented fuel-burning appliance in any room with closed doors or windows or in any room where people are sleeping.
- Use an exhaust fan vented to outdoors over gas stoves.
- Open flues when fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized wood-burning stoves that are certified to meet EPA emission standards. Make certain that doors on all wood-burning stoves fit tightly.



- Have a trained professional inspect, clean, and tune-up central heating system (furnaces, flues, and chimneys) annually. Repair any leaks promptly.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING

If you think you are experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Open windows and doors for ventilation, turn off any combustion appliances, and leave your home. Call 9-1-1 and report your symptoms. You could lose consciousness and die if you do nothing. It is also important to contact a doctor immediately for a proper diagnosis. Prompt medical attention is important. Before turning your fuel-burning appliances back on, make sure a qualified serviceperson checks them for malfunction.

WHEN THE CO DETECTOR ALARM SOUNDS

Treat the alarm as a real emergency each time. If it sounds and you are not experiencing any symptoms, press the reset button. If the alarm continues to sound, call the fire department. Immediately leave your home until a professional finds the reason why the detector/alarm sounded, and any problems are fixed.

HOW TO TEST A CO DETECTOR

Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Using a test button, some detectors/alerts test whether the circuitry as well as the sensor which senses CO is working, while the test button on other detectors only tests whether the circuitry is working. For those units which test the circuitry only, some manufacturers sell separate test kits to help the consumer test the CO sensor inside the alarm.

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 18, 2006

Vote on Saturday,
February 18, 2006 at the
Kendall Park
Firehouse on New Road.
Polls are open 2pm-9pm.



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