

News Release

Date: November 24, 2010

Contact: Dawn Johnson, Public Information Officer

Bitter Cold Sparks Multiple Chimney Fire Responses

As temperatures drop outdoors, residential fires rise as people try to stay warm in their homes. Monday, Fire District 6 crews responded to two chimney fires. The first was at 1013 NW 87th St. around one o'clock Monday morning. That evening, around seven o'clock, crews responded to another chimney fire at 6317 NW 196th St. In both incidents, there were no injuries and minor damage to the homes. But heating equipment, including fireplaces, is a leading cause of residential fires and fire deaths each year.

Fire District 6 recommends that you have your chimney inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as inspections suggest; use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote buildup. When enough creosote is present, it only takes a spark to ignite and cause a chimney fire.

Also, take the following steps:

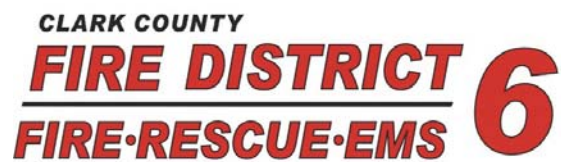
- Install a tight-fitting fireplace screen and never leave your fire unattended.
- Keep combustibles at least 3-feet away
- Use caution when disposing of fireplace ashes. Allow them time to cool completely before placing them in a metal container.

For further information contact:

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