



# Welcome to Captain's Corner

Carolyn Dumbeck – Busby Volunteer Fire Department Captain

November 2016 Issue



**Hello Everyone!** This month's edition is on Chimney Fires. During the fall and winter months the use of wood stoves and fireplaces increases throughout the County. Although having a warm fire going is wonderful during this time of year it is important that some safety steps are taken before lighting your first fire as well as during burning. Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during winter months.

## Prior to Lighting First Fire of the Year:

- ❖ Ensure that your wood stove or fireplace was installed by a qualified professional
- ❖ Make sure that your home insurance policy includes use of a wood stove or fireplace
- ❖ Clean the inside of your wood stove or fireplace with a wire brush
- ❖ Have your chimney and wood stove or fireplace inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall before use
- ❖ Make sure that you have a carbon monoxide detector installed outside of each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

## During Use:

- ❖ Keep a close eye on the fire
- ❖ Keep children at least 3 feet away from the wood stove or fireplace
- ❖ Keep all combustible materials at least 3 feet away from the wood stove or fireplace
- ❖ Know how to recognize chimney fires (see next page info sheet)
- ❖ Use dry seasoned wood or pellets
- ❖ Keep fire extinguisher near by

## Following Use:

- ❖ Keep wood stove or fireplace clean and free of debris and ashes
- ❖ Allow ashes to cool before cleaning out stove. Place ashes in a covered metal container outside of the home approximately 10 feet away from the home and other combustible material.

We have Carbon Monoxide Detectors for sale for \$30 please contact Jared Stitsen if you are interested in purchasing one.

We have a limited number of high quality smoke detectors available free to homes whose smoke detectors need replacement (not working, over 10 years) or homes that currently do not have a sufficient number of smoke detectors. Contact Jared Stitsen for these or any assistance in testing your alarm **780-719-7706**

# What to do if you have a

## CHIMNEY FIRE



To understand what causes a chimney fire, you must realize that when wood is burned, it gives off creosote, tars, and resins. These products of incomplete combustion collect in the flue liner and if allowed to build up, they will eventually ignite. Creosote ignites at 451 °F (about the same burning point as paper) and can quickly become a raging 2100 °F inferno. In fact, heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CHIMNEY FIRES

- The roar of a fire in the chimney (often heard in the wall of an upper floor from fireplace or stove or on a lower floor)
- Warping of metal anywhere in or on the chimney
- Creosote flakes and debris found on the ground, roof, or gutters
- Discolored or warped rain cap (at top of chimney)
- Scorching or burns in the roofing material from burning debris falling on the roof
- Visible cracks in the masonry of the chimney
- Smoke escaping through cracks in the chimney
- Smoke in the attic or visible soot build-up in the attic

### **If you realize a chimney fire is occurring, follow these steps:**

- 1) Get everyone out of the house, including yourself
- 2) Call **911**

### **If you can do so without risk to yourself, these additional steps may help save your home. Remember, however, that homes are replaceable, but lives are not:**

- Put a chimney fire extinguisher into the fireplace or wood stove
- Close the glass doors on the fireplace
- Close the air inlets on the wood stove
- Use a garden hose to spray down the roof (not the chimney) so the fire won't spread to the rest of the structure
- Monitor the exterior chimney temperature throughout the house for at least 2 or 3 hours after the fire is out
- Have a certified inspection done before use of fireplace or wood stove

# Emergency Police, Fire, or Ambulance Call 911

**Home Quarter Rural Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Green Sign at Driveway)*

**Home Quarter Legal Land:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Quarter Rural / Legal Land:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Emergency Contacts:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Knowing where you are located will help emergency responders find your location quicker, increasing the chance of saving lives and /or property during an emergency situation.*



## Fire Department Society / Department News

October: We responded to 4 Calls: 3 medical calls and 1 Fire Alarm. Total calls for 2016 is 55 calls.

### Upcoming Events:

**Smoke Stompin' Dinner, Dance, And Silent Auction:** Save the date for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser **November 12<sup>th</sup>**! Tickets are available at the Busy Bee Mart or any fire department member. We are looking for silent auction items again, if you are interested in donating an item please contact **Carolyn 780-916-9517** to organize drop off. Any item over \$20 value will qualify you for a CRA tax receipt.

**Tickets are selling fast, if you are interested in attending get your tickets at the Busy Bee Mart before we sell out !**



**BUSBY VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**SMOKE STOMPIN'  
DINNER DANCE & SILENT AUCTION**

**Busby Community Hall  
Saturday November 12th, 2016  
Cocktails @ 5:00 PM  
Dinner @ 6:30 PM**

**Tickets \$30 - Sorry No Minors  
Casual or Western Wear!**

**Tickets& Info @ Busy Bee Mart or Jared 780-719-7706**