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## **SPRING FIRE & LIFE SAFETY TIPS**

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**Every season brings its own safety hazards. Spring is the time we traditionally clean up our homes or businesses. Here are a few things you can add to your list:**

- Check your dryer vents and the hose/pipe connecting the dryer to the outside vent. Clean out any lint. Simply cleaning the lint filter on the dryer is not sufficient to prevent dryer fires.
- Clean up clutter both inside your home/business and outside on your property. Know that the excessive accumulation of clutter is dangerous and does lead to serious fires.
- If you used a fireplace this winter, now is a good time to have it cleaned and inspected. Contact a licensed chimney professional.
- As always, make sure you check the batteries and test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Remember, you need to replace any smoke alarm older than ten (10) years and any carbon monoxide alarm older than (7) years.
- As you prepare to fire up your grill, remember these tips: Grills must only be used outdoors, away from structures and other combustible materials such as wood fences. While seemingly obvious, failure to follow this instruction is a common cause of grill-related house fires, particularly when the weather is uncooperative which may tempt people to move their grills into their garage or underneath an overhang on a deck or porch.
- It is vital to clean grills and ensure they are free of grease buildup before using them. This is particularly important with propane and gas fueled grills because they are most prone to grease build-up.
- Use caution when fueling lawn mowers and other small engines. Store gasoline only in approved containers with the lids closed tightly, and never store the fuel anywhere in your home. Let hot lawnmowers and other equipment cool down before storing or refueling.
- Spring means storm season – Remember that any thunderstorm or heavy rain can cause flash flooding. Just six inches of moving water can knock a person down. Two feet can sweep a vehicle away! When you're walking or driving, stay clear of flood water. And remember, if you can hear thunder, there is a danger of lightning. Stay indoors and away from windows during thunderstorms – and remember that power surges from lightning can come through your homes phone and electrical wires.

***Visit our website at [CranfordNJ.org/Fire-Department](http://CranfordNJ.org/Fire-Department) for more safety tips.***