

THE CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, 1st Quarter 2016



From the Chief:

Happy Holidays.

With the holiday season upon us, it is a time of joy and reflection but there is also an element of danger associated with the festivities that surround the celebrations. To keep your holiday season joyful and safe, I would like to take some time to discuss important safety issues.



Chief Gregg Curry

Christmas, along with Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are undoubtedly the highlight of your holiday season. Gathering of friends and family, food and drink, fancy clothing, candle decorations and the fireplace are all parts of these events.

New Year's Day comes right around the corner and we are all exhausted. The issue of our personal and loved ones' safety tends to take a back seat to all of the excitement and celebration. Holiday safety should be a part of our planning when preparing for these festive days. Below are a few suggestions to make your holiday season remembered for its joyfulness and not its tragedy.

Suggestions for a Safe Holiday:

- Be sure to test your smoke detectors;
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it;
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned, if necessary;

- When you clean out your fireplace, discard all embers and ashes in a metal can away from your home. Do not store hot embers in your metal can in the garage. Never take hot embers for granted, always use a metal container;
- Clean your oven and stove prior to the holiday. Often the extra load on these appliances can cause a fire due to the high use and extra grease build up;
- Keep kitchen clutter away from the stove and oven;
- Be extra careful with matches and candles. Candles should be made of flame retardant materials. Look at the label;
- Avoid loose flammable clothing around candles, matches, fireplaces, and all stoves;
- Keep decorations away from heat sources such as open flames, electric heaters, and exposed electric bulbs;
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Inspect all electrical cords and light sets. If in doubt - throw them out;
- Keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy base filled with water. Make a fresh cut on the trunk before placing it in your holder. Check the water level daily. Spraying your tree with a fire retardant is a good idea;
- Place tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, portable heaters, heat registers, etc;

- Dispose of your tree safely before it becomes dangerously dry. Do not burn it in your fireplace or wood stove;
- Always use UL approved lights on the tree;
- Do not use any candles on your tree!!!!
- Never use lights with an empty socket;
- Lights should not touch combustible materials;
- Use only "outdoor" lights outdoors;
- Turn off all lights prior to leaving your home or before going to bed;
- Mini lights are safest because they produce less heat. Avoid extension cords if possible;
- Keep Christmas wrapping away from heat sources. Do not burn in your fireplace or wood stove

Here is a link from the NIST to show how quickly a Christmas tree can ignite and engulf a home. The room flashes over in less than 30 seconds.

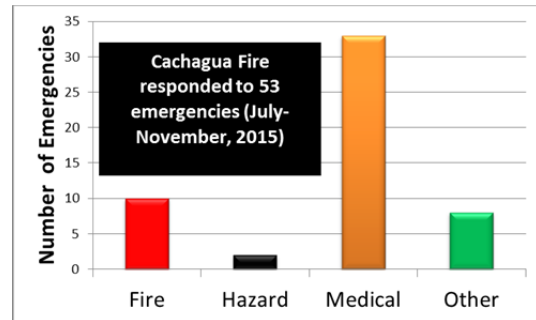
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_eHBqVYa8A

So please review these suggestions and, most of all, have a very Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
 Gregg I. Curry
 Fire Chief

July to November Emergencies:

We did not have room to include the calls from the third quarter in our last newsletter so here we report on the 53 calls we had from July through November.



Santa's Visit

Cachagua Fire continues our tradition of having Santa visit your home on Christmas Eve.



CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Emergencies: Dial 911