



SPARKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2010

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Safely Clean Your Cobwebs & Clutter

Spring-Cleaning Safety Tips from Sparks Fire Department

Sparks, Nevada ~ “The spring-cleaning bug arrives with the sunshine,” says Sparks Division Chief and Fire Marshal Bob King. “Every year, the fire department responds to home fires and medical calls that can be avoided if you follow these safety tips:” Use these guidelines to protect your family and loved ones:

- In your newly organized home, take the opportunity to:
 - Eliminate extension cords and overloaded electrical outlets (only one plug per outlet!)
 - Test all your smoke detectors & replace any that are 10 years old or older
 - Plan and practice a home-fire escape plan with your family
- Never use gasoline as a cleaner.
- Do not store gasoline or lighter fluid in your home—even in small amounts! Vapors can explode with just one spark. Use special storage containers and place them in an outside shed.
- Close the lid on all dangerous products and put them away after using them. Store them away in a safe place and lock them away from children.
- Store all cleaning chemicals and rags with solvents/oils in an airtight metal can with a tight-fitting lid at least 30 feet away from your home and wood fences. Dispose of properly!
- Never mix cleaning products. Toxic fumes can result that poison you and your family. Cleaning agents have chemicals and they may create potentially hazardous chemical reactions.
- Keep windows open and wear gloves and masks while using cleaning solutions. Keep the air clear, yourself aware, and protect your skin from harsh chemicals.
- Do not use electrical appliances in wet areas. Especially watch out in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, and garage.
- If an appliance has a 3-prong plug, never force it into a 2-slot outlet or extension cord
- When you clean out your cabinets, check out the labels. Pay attention to “Caution,” “Warning,” “Danger,” “Poison,” or “Keep Out of Reach of Children” and be careful! Lock up all these products when not in use.
- Always keep stairs, steps, landings, and hallways clear. Carry loads you can see over and keep one hand free to hold banisters and railings.
- Never leave a bucket with water or cleaning solutions unattended. Store buckets empty and upside down to prevent a drowning danger to young and curious children.

Citizens are reminded that you MUST have working smoke detectors in order to receive early notification of a fire. We recommend that every sleeping room and the hallways serving those sleeping rooms have a working smoke detector. Practice an evacuation plan with everyone monthly.