



CHELAN FIRE and RESCUE
AND
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5



CHIMNEY SAFETY TIPS

Keeping your Chimney Safe from fire

In 1996, chimneys were the second highest area of origin for residential Structure fires In Washington State and accounted for 12% of all residential structure fires.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America reports that creosote accumulation is the leading cause of chimney fires. A chimney that is dirty, blocked or is in disrepair can inhibit in proper venting of smoke up the flue and can also cause a chimney fire. Nearly all residential fires originating in the chimney are preventable. An annual chimney inspection by a certified chimney sweep can prevent fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. The Chimney safety Institute of America recommends the following:

- Have your chimney checked every year.
- Burn only well seasoned hardwoods.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.
- Install a chimney that is waterproofed.
- Have your chimney flashing inspected and maintained.
- Have a sealing damper installed in your wood-burning system.
- Have your chimney sweep ensure that your chimney has an appropriate liner.
- Following a violent storm, earthquake, flood or lightening strike, have your chimney inspected for damage – inside and out.
- Hire a certified chimney sweep.

Resources:

Chimney Safety Institute of America <http://www.csia.org>
Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau "Fire Facts"

If you have any questions please call your local Fire or Ems Departments.

Chelan Fire and Rescue 509-682-4476
Mason Fire Dist 5 509-687-3222
Chelan EMS 509-682-6120

Because there is only one YOU!