

FIRE

When **seconds** count...

RESCUE



Fall 2009

Inside

Have a Safe and Happy Upcoming Holiday Season **2**

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Fact Sheet **3**

Seconds Do Count: Order Your Address Sign Today! **3**

Special Thanks **4**

Commissioners

Orval French
Kathleen Devin
Robert Johnson
Stewart Kunkel
Steven Slater
Jonathan Sproufske

Chief Administration

Rita Hutcheson

Deputy Chief Operations

Mark King

Contact Us

S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS

Serving the Yelm & Rainier Communities

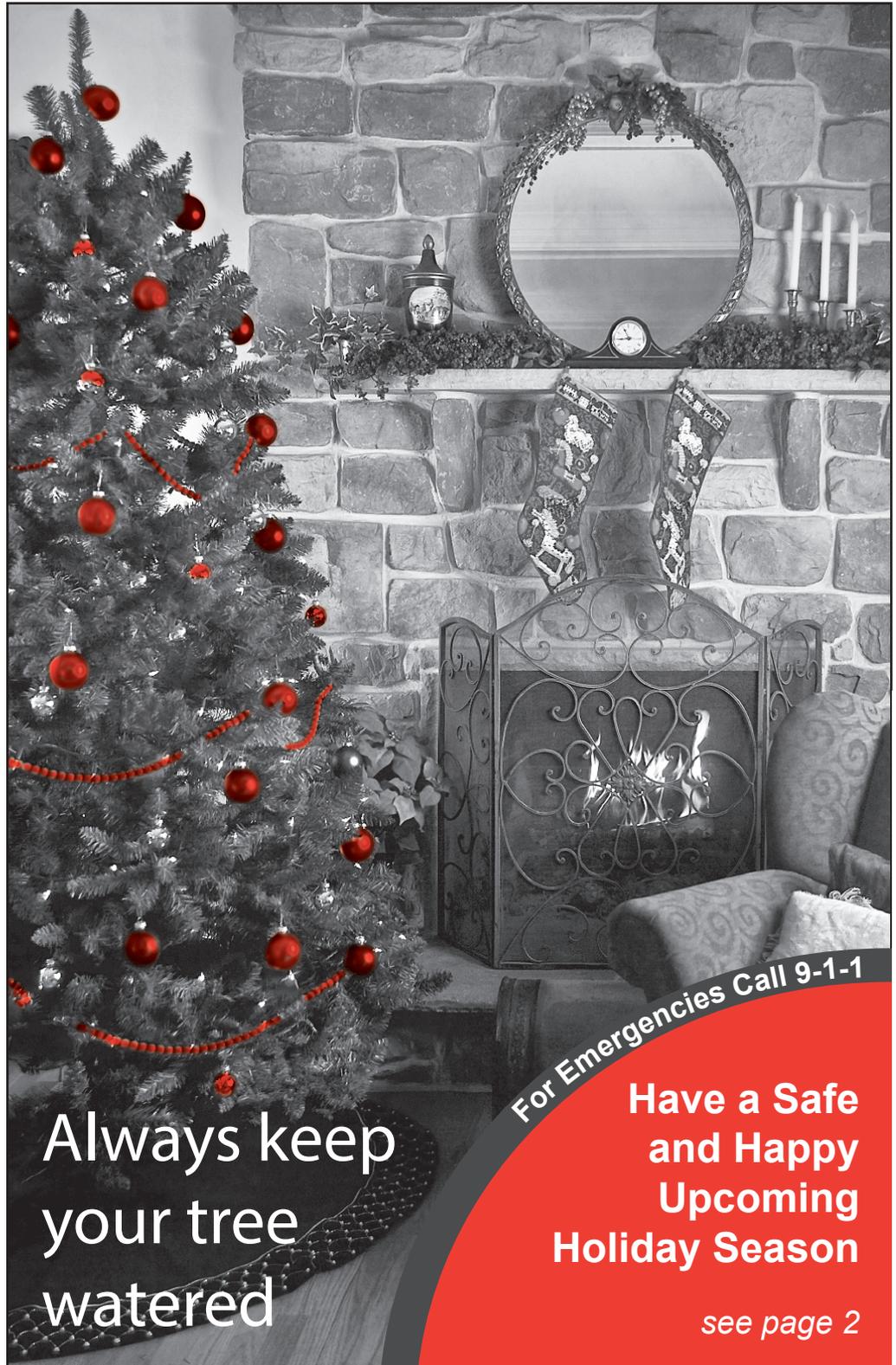
PO Box 777 • Yelm, WA 98597

(360) 458-2799

www.sethurstonfire-ems.com

Mission Statement

S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS will provide professional, caring volunteer and full time responders to all manner of emergencies. We will strive to effectively utilize all available resources as provided by our community. We will train our responders to safely meet increasing call volumes and to fulfill the public need for education and prevention. We will respond with compassion and integrity, with respect and support for citizens in their time of need.



Always keep
your tree
watered

For Emergencies Call 9-1-1

Have a Safe
and Happy
Upcoming
Holiday Season

see page 2

Career

Firefighters/EMTs

Rita Hutcheson, Fire Chief
 Mark King, Deputy Chief
 Steve Gesell, Assistant Chief
 Eric Hetland, Captain
 Don Wilson, Captain
 Pat Kruse, Captain
 Ann Holeman, Lieutenant
 Matt Russell, Lieutenant
 Russ Barstow, Lieutenant
 Brian Richardson, Lieutenant
 Dean Bastin
 Curtis Behrens
 Steve Berg
 Tony Brosco
 Lance Casto
 Gilbert Eliason
 Michael Fogarty
 Mark Fritsch
 Chad Halterman
 Paul Harruff
 Dan Stewart

Volunteer

Firefighters/EMTs

Pete Suver, Assistant Chief	Ted Christenson
Gerald Bickett	Franklyn Ramos
Matt Blasco	Clayton Skinner
Michael Coleman	Bryan Chappell
Don Ireland	Tom Floyd
Noah Naipo	Justin Frank
Ksea Rogers	Jeanne Ring
Mike Sommer	Donald Weesner
Gordon Rose	Ken Wheeler

Office Staff

Kris Kelly, Office Manager
 Rhonda Civiletti, Administrative Assistant
 Paul Shindell, Security/IT (Volunteer)
 Jeff Radey, Fire Mechanic
 Mike Sommer, Maintenance Coordinator
 Kathleen Devin, EMS Coordinator
 (Volunteer)

Support Volunteers

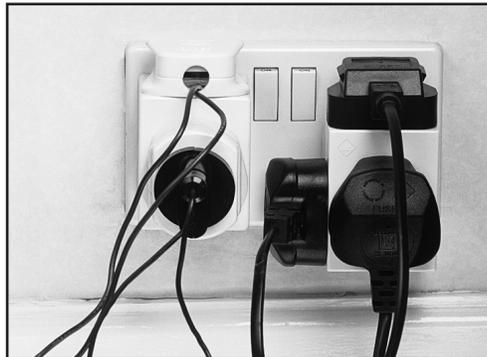
Tracy Carli	Larry Martin
Paula Willadsen	Dillon Pflugmacher
Kathy Schleis	Fran Morehead
Joey Stang	

Have a

Safe and Happy Upcoming Holiday Season

No time of the year is as exciting and enjoyable as the coming holiday season! Throughout the Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas seasons, family and friends, young and old, will gather to share the warmth this time of year brings our way. Unfortunately, these seasons are also characterized by an increase in fire incidents—many of which are traced back to seasonal decorations. Most fires can be prevented by following a few simple, common sense suggestions:

1. **Watch Children...** Who are often the victims of fires. Be especially careful with matches and lighters. Teach children to stay away from candles, fireplaces, woodstoves, and heaters.
2. **Choose Toys with Care...** Don't let a toy become a tragedy! Steer clear of any toy that produces heat or sparks. Make sure pajamas and bed clothing are flame retardant. Never buy toys that have not been thoroughly tested by a safety laboratory.



3. **Check Your Lights...** They may be pretty, but are they safe? Check your cord sets for damage. Make sure all lights are UL tested. Use them properly. Never use lights on a metal tree. Don't overload circuits, and use only outdoor approved light sets outside. Be sure to turn lights off before you leave your home or when you go to bed.

4. **Be Careful with Decorations...** Keep all decorations away from any flame or heating device. Choose only fire retardant type decorations.

5. **Check Your Christmas Tree...** Fresh cut trees and other forms of "cut" decorations need plenty of water. Keep them fresh. Never place near warm or hot air and never use candles on or near them. Once they start to shed or dry out, get rid of them.



(continued on page 4)

**Fire/EMT Calls
 Up 108 From
 Last Year at
 This Time**

Disclaimer: The publication of S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS contains opinions, interpretations, assumptions and predictions of various authors. The management and WMS do not make warranties with respect to accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this publication. Its purpose is to enhance awareness of the fire district and disseminate information that is of vital concern to the public. Comments from the public are encouraged and should be sent to: Chief Rita Hutcheson • PO Box 777 • Yelm, WA 98597 • (360) 458-2799.

Carbon Monoxide

Poisoning Fact Sheet

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death.

Where is CO found?

CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood, and gas ranges and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned by breathing it.

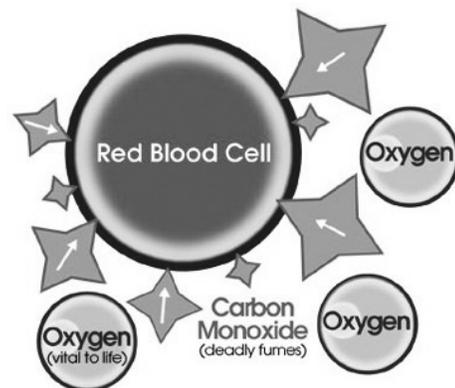
What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, CO poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

How does CO poisoning work?

Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of CO in the air, the body may replace

oxygen in blood with CO. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and result in death.



What shouldn't I do when heating my house or cooking when the power is out?

- Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill indoors. Using a grill indoors will cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper unless you use it inside a vented fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal – red, gray, black, or white – gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. Using a gas camp stove indoors can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window, door, or vent. 🚫

Reprinted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Seconds Do Count

In an emergency, it is very important that your address marker is visible from the road so the firefighters/EMTs can find you quicker.

- Ask yourself:
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Can your house numbers be seen from the road? | 3) Can the numbers be read at night? |
| 2) Are the house numbers clearly visible on your mail box? | 4) Can it be seen from both directions? |

Order Your Address Sign Today!

- 3" white reflective letters on reflective blue background.
- Visible up to 300 feet – Day or Night!
- Address numbers on both sides or single side.
- Proceeds support the S.E. Thurston Firefighter Association

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Circle Preference:
 Horizontal or Vertical

Installation is free to anyone living in areas served by S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS. Call (360) 458-2799 today!

Make checks payable & mail to:
S.E. Thurston Firefighter Association
PO Box 777, Yelm, WA 98597

	Qty.	Price per item	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Only		\$16.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Post		\$3.00	
Grand Total			

Please clip out and mail with check

Makes a great holiday gift!

ECRWSS RESIDENT

Call 9-1-1 for Fire &
Police Emergencies

Holiday Season

(continued from page 2)

- Use Fireplaces and Woodstoves Safely...** Make sure your fireplace or woodstove is clean and well maintained. This includes the chimney. Always use a screen in front of a fireplace to protect from sparks. Install a spark arrestor on the chimney to protect your roof and yard. Never burn paper or boxes in a fireplace—they can fly up the chimney, igniting flammable residue. Make sure all ashes are cold before you clean them out and always carry them well away from your house or garage in a metal container.
- Use Space Heaters Safely...** Give them plenty of room—at least a yard! Don't let children or wrapping paper get too close. Consider installing a cage around the heater to guard against accidents.
- Install and test smoke detectors monthly.**
- Plan your escape and meeting place should a fire occur.**



With a little caution and some common sense planning, you can make sure your holidays are safe and happy. Your safety begins at home. Give your family a gift they can live with. Teach them to be fire safe!! Your fire department would rather you pay us a visit during the holidays than for us to visit you.



Special Thanks

This newsletter was made possible through the most generous donation of Ms. JZ Knight. Communication with the department indicates Ms. Knight “has been very impressed with the responsive, proficient and courteous manner of Southeast Thurston Fire/EMS personnel when their services are required at Ramtha’s School of Enlightenment or Ms. Knight’s home”. This donation is “her way to acknowledge their work”. Knight is very aware of the difficult challenges facing the local Fire Commissioners & the Fire Chief to maintain services and existing response times the public expects and demands in emergency situations. Southeast Thurston Fire/EMS has reported a budget reduction this year of approximately \$180,000 due to tax receipts tied to dropping property assessments in the current economic environment. In response, Ms. Knight has pledged a total of \$120,000 by the end of 2010 to Southeast Thurston Fire/EMS “for their general operational fund or to where the greatest community benefit would be derived”.

The department will utilize these funds to continue the public education/community service projects conducted by the fire department throughout the year. Some of these projects include the department newsletters, batteries and smoke detectors for citizens unable to afford their own, safety handouts for schools and community events, and items for children such as Junior Firefighter stickers, plastic fire helmets, pencils, erasers, etc.

If you would like to make a cash donation that would be used for the Fire & Rescue newsletter, smoke detectors or other items, please call Chief Hutcheson at (360) 458-2799. Thank you! 🙏