

Contact: Joyce Driscoll, Admin. Assistant

Clarkdale Fire District
Phone 928 639-4591
Fax 928 649-2655

PO Box 1236
895 First South Street
Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Clarkdale Fire District

Press Release

Kitchen Fire.

Clarkdale, AZ December 28, 2009: At 10:39 p.m. Christmas Eve Clarkdale Fire District personnel responded to a fire at a single-family residence on Russel Street. The fire appeared to have been started by a discarded cigarette in a kitchen trash can. The trash can was next to a sliding glass door with curtains. The fire spread to the curtains and then to cabinets above the refrigerator. The smoke detector alerted the occupants who used pots and pans to put water on the fire. District personnel completed the extinguishment of the fire. Damage is estimated at \$500 to the kitchen area. There was also minor smoke damage.

Clarkdale Fire District wishes to share the following safety reminders.

Every year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials.

Stop a fire caused by careless smoking, before it starts:

- The safest place to smoke is outside of the home. Use a sturdy ashtray or a can filled with sand to collect ashes.
- Use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that are hard to tip over. If it wobbles, it won't work.
- Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like a table.
- Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time. The cigarette really needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away NEVER toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don't put ashtrays on them. If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.
- NEVER smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near an oxygen source, even if the source is turned off. Oxygen makes any fire burn hotter and faster.
- If you smoke, use reduced ignition strength cigarettes, commonly referred to as "fire-safe cigarettes."

For Immediate Release

more

- If you are drowsy or falling asleep, put it out. Smoking in bed is just plain wrong.
- Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your lighter on “low” flame.

Be prepared for a fire:

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm." A smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.
- Prepare an escape plan and practice it often. Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two (2) escape routes from their bedrooms.