

FROM YOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Commissioner, Norm Casini ● Assistant Building Commissioner, Ken LaBella

The Building Department would like to thank all our residents for doing a great job on taking pride and maintaining their properties throughout this year. There has been a lot of improvements done on many properties and it shows. The George M. Suhy Grant program has assisted in over 70 Grants this year, great job by our Village Officials on approving this program. Keep up the great job in making the Village of Cuyahoga Heights a unique place to live!

The holidays are fast approaching, and the temperatures are dropping, with that being said please be aware of safety issues when cooking, heating (fires), electrical (heaters and Christmas lights), candles and live Christmas trees.

The holidays are especially family oriented and reminds us of family, friends and possessions for which we can be thankful for. They can also pose a preventable risk that may or may not directly present itself. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential fires followed by heating. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), space heaters account for about one third of the home heating fires and approximately 80% of the home heating fire deaths, 53% of residential electrical fires involve electrical wiring.

Below are some guidelines and practices to keep your family safe and prevent the unfortunate incident of a fire or other related accidents.

Cooking

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or baking food.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, potholders, oven mitts and paper products away from your stovetop.
- Keep your children and pets at 3 feet away from any hot surfaces. Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
- Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause fire.

Heating

- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Always put fire out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Do not burn green wood, paper or trash in your fireplace because they create heavy creosote buildup and hard to control.
- Always use a metal mesh screen at your fireplaces opening.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is always in the open position when using.
- When using an electric space heater, keep combustibles at least three feet away.
- Make sure the wiring cord is not damaged when using.
- Do not use your space heater for drying clothes.

Electrical

- Frayed wire can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords.
- Electrical fires can be caused from misuse of electrical cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance and running cords under rugs.
- Replace any electrical appliance if it causes electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.
- If an appliance has a three- prong plug, use it in a three- slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two- slot outlet or extension cord.