



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS



www.tnfd.org

Week of 12/5/2009

Phone: 286-4781

Vision

SAFETY

PROFESSIONALISM

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE**

Mission

DELIVER:

EFFICIENT,

PROFESSIONAL,

HIGH QUALITY,

COST EFFECTIVE,

AND TIMELY

**FIRE
SUPPRESSION,**

RESCUE,

**EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES,**

FIRE PREVENTION,

**PUBLIC SAFETY
EDUCATION, AND**

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT.**

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WOODBURNING / HEATING APPLIANCE SAFETY

Having some fire safety know-how helps to prevent fires and save lives. "Fire safety is everyone's responsibility," says Brad Ober, Fire Prevention Captain. "We strongly advise people to take a little time to learn about how they can protect themselves and their loved ones. "



In recent years heating equipment has been the leading cause of home fires in New Hampshire. Very often heating related fires are the result of improper installation, a lack of maintenance, or simple acts of carelessness.

There are three (3) general areas of safety that should be followed with the installation and continued use of heating appliances.

Clearance to Combustibles

- ◆ A common hazard is the storage of combustible materials where they can be ignited by heat radiated by a furnace, stove, or other heating appliance.
- ◆ Minimum clearances must be maintained to ensure safe operation and exposure to combustible materials.

Maintenance

- ◆ Flues and smoke pipes can constitute a hazard; both should be kept in good condition and have adequate clearance from any combustibles.
- ◆ Flues should be cleaned annually and inspected for damage or holes. In addition, throughout the heating season, checks for creosote buildup in the flue pipe of solid-fuel burning appliances should be conducted.
- ◆ To keep your wood- or pellet-burning system operating efficiently and safely, you'll need to maintain it on a regular basis.
- ◆ In addition to cleaning the chimney, a certified chimney sweep should have the knowledge

Chief's Message

Quotes

Many times we are quoted. Some may believe that many times we are "mis"-quoted. But, maybe it is because we mis-speak that we are mis-quoted!

In any case, I think we all have to be careful of what we hear. Not only do each of us have a responsibility for speaking the truth and saying what we mean, we also have a responsibility to validate messages that we receive. Maybe all that means is to ask the speaker to repeat what they say!

We have all heard the saying, "If it is too good to be true, it probably is," right? Well the same thing could be said about those precious nuggets of information that people banter around. You all know what I'm talking about. For example, there are some people that like to pass around information that might not be completely truthful, but then again, it might not be a lie; to get a reaction of some type. First, you need to be able to identify these people, and next, you need to have the self-discipline to let what they say go in one ear and out the other. Many times they are trying to appease themselves and the misinformation they

are providing to you is useless. But, how do you know? Ask questions. Follow up on it. If it is at all concerning to you, make sure you get the right answers from the right place.

Obviously, the quotes on the page have little to do with what I just wrote; or do they?

The antonym of mediocrity is superiority. Have you noticed that many of the information passers tend to pick up the pace if they are falling



from superiority? For example: If they are no longer the center of attention; if their agendas are not being met; if nobody is listening; or if the truth is not what they want to hear... I am sure you all have.

In the fire service, we must be forever fearful of mediocrity. We can die from it! Something as simple as not checking the water level in the tank on an engine to make sure it is full and not having water in a hoseline. Others

can die from it: not bringing the defibrillator into the house of a chest pain patient who goes into cardiac arrest. And, other times, mediocrity just slowly erodes a department by just getting by, day in and day out. Suddenly, the day will come when nothing is good enough and the job can't get done.

It has often been said that every employee wants to do a good job—they have a natural need and urge to do the right thing—they just need the proper tools, resources, and support to do it. That support comes in a lot of different forms. It may be leadership, or it may be coaching, for example.

But there are times that we hear that we should be more mediocre. Haven't we heard before: "you don't always need the biggest and the best,"? "We don't have to meet standards—nobody else does." "It can get us by for a few more years." "Anybody could fill that shift." All of these quotes play to the quote at the bottom of the page.

So, conflict is inevitable when you are striving to be the best and offer the best service, but mediocrity is considered excellent by others.

Be the Best You Can Be!
Chief Carrier

"Mediocrity is excellent to the eyes of mediocre people" - Joseph Joubert

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

December 7, 2009	0900 hrs	"Taxpayer" Fires Chief Carrier Center Street
December 7, 2009	1800 hrs	Pumping – Pillsbury Street Deputy Robinson Meet At Park Street
December 8, 2009	0900 hrs	"Taxpayer" Fires Chief Carrier Center Street
December 9, 2009	0900 hrs	"Taxpayer" Fires Chief Carrier Center Street
December 14, 2009	0900 hrs	Watch Out Behind You Chief Carrier Center Street
December 14, 2009	1800 hrs	Officer's Meeting/Training Chief Carrier Center Street
December 15, 2009	0900 hrs	Watch Out Behind You Chief Carrier Center Street
December 16, 2009	0900 hrs	Watch Out Behind You Chief Carrier Center Street
December 21, 2009	0900 hrs	Tips for... Forcible Entry Chief Carrier Center Street
December 21, 2009	1800 hrs	Preplan Reviews FF Valovanie Center Street

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to help make sure your appliance, hearth, connecting pipe, air inlets, chimney, and all other components are functioning efficiently and safely.

Proper Installation

- ◆ A chimney is a critical part of your heating system. It carries smoke and gases out of the house, and creates the suction or draft necessary to draw air to the fire. A well designed chimney allows the appliance to operate cleanly, producing a minimum amount of smoke and creosote.

All chimneys require regular inspection for deterioration and creosote buildup. The chimney should be inspected and cleaned at least once a year, as often as biweekly if you use your wood stove daily.



At left is a still photo of a NIST simulation burn of a Christmas tree in a living room mock up. Note the text—"4 seconds". That indicates the time elapsed from ignition. Very impressive. This should serve as a good warning that everyone can't be too careful around the holidays—especially with their decorations and Christmas trees. Go to www.nist.gov if you are interested in the rest of the video and/or many other interesting fire studies.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Be sure every level of your home has a working interconnected smoke alarm and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Have a Carbon Monoxide Detector installed and working properly
- A fire extinguisher should be located on every floor of your home.
- A metal can with a cover should be available for ash disposal. After placing the ashes into the can place the can outside away from any structure or combustibles.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in a while.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Get out and stay out never go back in for anything.
- Call 911 in case of an emergency



How Well Do You Know Your Buildings????

Where is this? It looks like you should know before you go up or down!

HINT: This is an access stair to a roof, from an attic space.

Answer: Tilton Town Hall

