

Spring



SPRING INTO SAFETY (2010)

Provided by Wilma Woodfork

SPRING IS HERE!!!

With warm weather and longer days approaching, people are emerging from their winter spaces to focus on projects like spring-cleaning, home repairs, and yard work. Many are also lacing up their shoes for their first outdoor jog or run for the season. These activities can be extremely beneficial, but they also may involve a variety of health and safety hazards that can be avoided with proper precautions. To help ensure everyone in our community stays safe this season, here are a few safety tips for you to share.

CLEANING

- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key. Properly dispose of any that are leaking, are expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up spills, etc. of hazardous chemicals wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the package.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place from the house.
- Keep work area clean and clutter free
- Check your gas barbeque grills for leaks and cracks. Make sure **all** grills are at least 5 to 10 feet away from the house as well as unused propane tanks.
- Remove fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers or magazines especially around the furnace, hot water heater, and dryer.

YARDWORK

- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you may not have used in awhile.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle fertilizers and pesticides.
- Wear protective gear like sturdy shoes, proper eye protection, lightweight clothing, etc.
- Rake and pick up debris before you mow
- Inspect equipment for any damage, leaks and don't use if there are problems

OUTDOOR

- Check your local weather stations for fire and tornado warnings
- Leaves and tinder dry out very quickly from spring rains, especially when the wind is blowing. What was wet yesterday may be a tinderbox waiting for any source of ignition.
- Make sure you are burning only tree trimmings, leaves, etc from your yard. It is illegal to burn trash or other items
- Remember you can be responsible for the property of others if damaged by a fire that you start. SO FOLLOW THE RULES AND BE CAREFUL.

TORNADO

- Buy or create a survival kit (*essential medications, battery operated radio, water, flashlight, sturdy shoes, food, etc*)
- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information
- Be alert to changing weather (*blowing debris, many say it sounds like a freight train*)
- Go to safety immediately (*If inside go to a place away from glass and other flying objects*)
- If your outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low lying area
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (*as above*)
- After the tornado passes watch out for fallen power lines, do not go into damaged areas. Listen to radio for information and instructions. Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damages (*avoid using candles or matches*)

“We encourage PLACES’ employees to think Safety first everyday, to submit your safety suggestions that will make our agency as a whole to become a safe & healthier place to live and work.” – Wilma Woodfork, Safety & Health Chair