

## **PFPD July PSA**

Summertime is in full swing here in Pagosa Country! Take some time to prepare before your outdoor activities to ensure you have a great day!

### **Stay Hydrated**

At over 7,000 feet, the Pagosa area is a spectacular place to be. Always be aware that the altitude can have adverse effects if you are not prepared. Staying hydrated is a good way to prevent the onset of the ill effects of the altitude. Since we enjoy a much cooler climate than some surrounding areas, we can become complacent when it comes to hydration.

### **Stay aware of fire danger**

During the summer months, fire danger can change rapidly. Before lighting a cooking fire or campfire, check to make sure there are no fire restrictions in place. Check for the current restrictions on [www.PagosaFire.org](http://www.PagosaFire.org) . Even without restrictions in place, always have a water source available to extinguish your fire.

### **Be a considerate driver**

Locals and tourists alike crowd the highways, side streets and back roads during the summer months. Large vehicles such as trucks towing camping trailers and RVs move slower than smaller vehicles and need extra braking time to reach a complete stop. Allow safe traveling distance between vehicles, only pass in designated areas, follow posted speed limits and anticipate more travel time that normal to get to your destination. Always remember to buckle up and verify that all passengers have done the same before putting your vehicle into drive.

## **PFPD August PSA**

**Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District**

August is an enjoyable time in Pagosa Springs with warm summer days and the first feel of fall in the air at night. Remember the following tips to make the most out of the fading summer days.

### **Bicycle Safety**

Always remember to wear a helmet while riding your bike. Ensure the helmet fits snugly and the chin strap is secure. Learn and use hand signals when riding on roadways so drivers are aware of your intentions. Wearing a reflective safety vest is recommended when riding in the evening.

### **Cooking with Kids**

Give children age-appropriate tasks while working in the kitchen. Young children should be given tasks away from cooking surfaces while older children can use the oven and stove with supervision. Never leave children unsupervised in the kitchen.

### **Back to School**

It's almost time for school to start again. Be aware of children walking and biking along roadways. Slow down while driving in school zones. Always obey driving laws regarding school buses – come to a complete stop whenever a bus has red flashing lights and the stop sign out.

## **PFPD September PSA**

**Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District**

The fast pace of summer is finally slowing down, making this the perfect time to check around the home for potential safety problems.

### **Washers and Dryers**

Thousands of house fires are caused by neglecting washers and dryers each year. Failure to clean around dryers account for 1/3 of all dryer fires. Make sure to clean the lint trap of your dryer with each use. Vacuum under and around the dryer once a month to prevent lint build up. Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry before being washed and dried.

### **Proper Storage of Flammable Items**

Ensure flammable items (paint thinner, solvents, aerosol cans, gasoline, etc.) are properly stored in a cool location, away from any heat sources such as hot water heaters or furnaces. Items like nail polish remover, rubbing alcohol, lighter fluid and linseed oil should also be stored away from children and heat sources.

### **Street Address Markings**

Confirm that your street address is posted and easily visible from the road. Address numbers should be reflective or light so they are easy to see at night. All landscaping should be cut back to avoid obscuring numbers. For easy visibility, post numbers that are a minimum of 3 inches tall and ½ inch thick. Attach the numbers on a post 5 feet high near the end of your driveway (far enough back a snowplow won't knock it over), ensuring viewing from approaching emergency response vehicles. Address numbers are available for purchase from Archuleta County.

## **PFPD October PSA**

October is national fire prevention month. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out".

### **Before an emergency...**

Practice your at home fire drill regularly. Ensure all family members, children and adults, actively participate. Confirm all rooms have two ways out (a door or window). Teach children how to exit the home themselves in case an adult is unable to assist them. Set up a meeting place where all family members will meet after leaving the home. Make sure your house number is clearly marked and visible from the street.

### **During an actual emergency...**

Remain calm and follow your established plan. Get outside quick. If possible, close the door as you leave the room to prevent further damage. Closing a door in a fire situation will confine the fire and prevent it from spreading as quickly.

### **Once you are outside...**

Go to your established a meeting place. Once you are outside, never go back into a burning building. Use a cell phone or neighbor's phone to call 911 for assistance.

Practicing the above tips could save valuable seconds, allowing you and your family to escape an emergency safely.

## **PFPD November PSA**

Fall has officially arrived in Pagosa! Now is the time to make sure you and your home are ready for the cooler temperatures.

### **Carbon Monoxide Detector**

Every level of your home should have a working carbon monoxide detector. Possible sources of CO include gas kitchen range, gas water heater, gas or wood fireplace, automobiles running in an attached garage. If your CO detector alarms, leave the building immediately and go outside to fresh air, call emergency services, do not re-enter the building.

### **Space Heaters**

In home fires involving heating equipment, 40% are caused by space heaters. To prevent a fire, ensure space heaters have at least a three-foot radius clear of all flammable items (curtains, blankets, bedding, furniture). Never use a space heater with a worn or frayed power cord. Safeguard the area by locating the space heater in an area where children and pets cannot knock it over.

### **Clean Chimneys**

During the colder months, many people rely on wood or pellet stoves to stay warm. The leading contributing factor to home heating fires is failure to clean heating equipment, primarily chimneys. To avoid a chimney fire, have your chimney cleaned once a year. Only burn approved material (plain, untreated/unfinished wood or pellets) in your stove. Follow the same guidance as space heaters and clear the area of all flammable items.