

PFPD April PSA

Spring is slowly arriving in Pagosa Country! Now is the time to do a spring check of your residence and vehicles.

Vehicle Fire Prevention

Proper maintenance is essential to ensuring a safe vehicle for you and everyone who rides with you. Regular service performed by a certified mechanic will confirm a properly working vehicle. Only transport fuel in certified containers, and never in a passenger compartment. Check to make sure all caps are properly tightened. Drive safely to avoid accidents.

What to do in the event of a vehicle fire

If your vehicle catches fire, follow these tips to safeguard yourself and passengers:

- Pull the vehicle over to the side of the road
- Turn vehicle OFF
- Get everyone out of the vehicle and move at least 100 feet away to a safe area
- Call 911
- NEVER RETURN TO A BURNING VEHICLE!

Dryer Fire Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss. Failure to clean the dryer (34 percent) is the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires.

Dryer Cleaning & Maintenance

- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.
- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.

PFPD Water Safety PSA

Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District

Pagosa Country is full of lakes, streams and rivers. Knowing how to be water wise is essential to safeguard yourself and those around you. Water safety includes knowing the water and the hazards in it and about having respect for the water.

General Water Safety Rules

Always wear a correctly fitting U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket. Always provide close and constant attention to anyone (children, teens & adults) you are supervising in or near the water. Learn how to recognize a drowning person; the signs are often subtle and could be overlooked. Learn CPR and first aid in case you encounter an emergency.

Lake Safety

Do not dive into the water. Jumping from cliffs or bridges is dangerous due to shallow water, submerged rocks, trees, or other hazards. Always swim with a buddy. Colorado lakes are considered "cold water lakes" even in the warm summer months. Know the signs of hypothermia and limit prolonged exposure to the cold water.

River Safety

Rivers often contain currents and water movements which you cannot see from the surface. It is almost impossible to remain standing in waist-deep water traveling at 4 mph. If the water is over your ankles, fast-flowing water can easily knock over an adult and make it extremely difficult to get back up. If you fall into fast-moving water, lay back with your feet downstream, toes pointing up toward the surface, looking downstream in order to spot obstructions.

PFPD July PSA

Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District

July in Pagosa Springs and surrounding areas is a time to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

July is the season for cooking outside. It is also the month with the most grill fires. Nationally, fire departments average over 10,000 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, these fires caused an annual average of 10 civilian deaths, 160 civilian injuries and \$123 million in direct property damage. Adhering to the proper grill safety rules will provide a safe, enjoyable experience.

Grill Safety Tips for Cooking

Only use your grill outside, positioned on a solid, debris-free surface. Keep it at least 3 feet from siding, deck rails and eaves. Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill to keep kids and pets safe. Do not leave a lit grill unattended.

Grill Care

Always clean your grill after each use to remove grease that could cause an unintended fire. Wait until grill is cool to remove coals; place cool coals in a metal container with lid.

Water Safety

A large snowpack last winter has left us with much need moisture this summer. Now that snow in the high country is actively melting, area water ways are flowing swiftly. Keep children and pets a safe distance from water's edge to prevent accidentally falling in. Always wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests. Remain alert and aware when supervising swimmers; do not get distracted by phones, tablets or conversations.

PFPD September PSA

Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District

The first hints of fall are in the air in the Pagosa Springs area. This means school has begun for area youth. Please follow the following tips to ensure the safety of both students and adults.

Bus Stop Safety

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. Teach children to stand only in designated bus stops at a safe distance from traffic flows. Always slow down when driving along bus routes, anticipating children may be nearby. Never pass a bus with flashing lights; yellow lights warn of impending stops while red lights indicate children are loading or unloading from bus.

School Zone Congestion

Vehicle congestion in school zones can be hazardous if both pedestrians and drivers aren't paying attention to the task at hand. Drivers should eliminate all distractions (cell phones, loud music, disruptive conversations) while traveling through school zones. Pedestrians should do the same, paying attention to all activity in the area.

Bikes, Scooters, and Skateboards. Oh my!

School-goers often take advantage of pleasant fall weather to ride their bikes, scooters and skateboards to school. While fun, these modes of transportation have their own set of risks. Children can easily ride through parked vehicles emerging into traffic flows with very little warning to drivers. Ensure riders have proper protective equipment (helmets, knee/elbow pads, proper footwear) before every trip. Drivers must remain vigilant and prepared to stop quickly if needed.

PFFD October PSA

Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District

October is Fire Prevention Month. FPM is designed to bring fire safety and prevention to the forefront of everyone's minds and to serve as a reminder to do your part in providing a safe environment for all those around you. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) creates an annual theme designed to encourage these messages. The 2019 theme is: **Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!**

NFPA statistics show that in 2017 U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 fire deaths and 10,600 fire injuries. On average, seven people died in a fire in a home per day during 2012 to 2016. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

Meet E.D.I.T.H.

E.D.I.T.H. stands for Exit Drill in the Home. Monthly home escape drills should include having all household members locate two ways out of every room (doors or windows), practice leaving the residence in a calm manner, gathering at a designated meeting place, and rehearsing information that should be relayed to 911 during an actual emergency. Every person, children and adults, who reside at the location need to be confident in their ability to exit the residence should an emergency arise.

Smoke Alarm familiarization

Monthly smoke alarm tests should be done when children are at home so they become familiar with the sound. Coach children to begin the previously practiced exit drill when the smoke alarm sounds. A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by half (source: NFPA).

911 – What to say

During an emergency, dialing 911 is the quickest way to get help coming. Rehearsing what to say before an event will ensure accurate information is relayed to emergency services personnel.

Remember to remain calm while giving the following information:

- Your name
- Your location
- Type of emergency (fire, vehicle accident, medical event)
- Contact phone number (in case the call gets disconnected)
- Any additional information requested

Stay on the phone until the dispatcher gathers all information needed.