

PFPD March 2020 PSA

Spring is approaching in Pagosa Country. This unpredictable season doesn't have to be unpleasant if you follow a few simple safety precautions.

Smoke Detector Maintenance

Spring cleaning is for your smoke detectors too! Smoke detectors should be tested every month to ensure proper working order. This month take a minute to clean your detector of any dust that has built up over the winter. An accumulation of dust can block air vents and delay your smoke detectors ability to alert you of danger.

Wood Stove Safety

Now that the weather is warming up, you may not be using your wood stove as often. Even if it has been a few days since your stove has been used, do not discard ashes without using the proper precautions. Always use a metal container with lid to contain ashes when you clean your stove. NEVER use a flammable container (cardboard box, paper or plastic bag, trashcan) to hold ashes. Ashes can hold enough heat to ignite a fire for days.

Spring Driving Conditions

It is the time of warm days and freezing nights; during the day snow melt can run across roadways and freeze again as soon as the sun sets. Always be aware of road conditions even when there has not been a storm. Allow yourself adequate time to travel be especially vigilant while driving in the dark as icy spots can be harder to detect.

Changing Weather Conditions

Spring storms can arrive with little warning in the mountains. Check predicted weather before driving long distances and be prepared to change routes if quick moving storms cause road conditions to deteriorate. Always fill your vehicle with fuel before heading out and make sure you top off your windshield wiper fluid reserve. Keep a warm jacket, hat and gloves in your vehicle even if the weather seems warm when you depart.