



SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Renton Regional Fire Authority

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

March 2023

Poison Prevention Week

March 19-25, 2023

National Poison Prevention Week is observed during the third week of March every year and exists to highlight the risk of being poisoned by household products. Take a peek under your kitchen sink or in your laundry room and there'll be tons of stuff that could be dangerous. Household cleaning agents, prescription medications, pesticides, and other items can pose serious hazards to the health and well-being of our families and even our pets.

- Keep all medicines, and potentially poisonous substances, in locked cabinets or out of the reach of children.
- **Keep medicines in their original containers**, properly labeled, and store them appropriately.
- **Never share prescription medicines.** If you are taking more than one drug at a time, check with your health care provider, pharmacist, or call the toll-free Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222), which connects you to your local poison center, to find out more about possible drug interactions.

Carbon monoxide (CO)

- **Have a working carbon monoxide detector** in your home. The best places for a CO detector are near bedrooms and close to furnaces.

Household products

- Household cleaners and disinfectants can make you sick when not used properly. Always follow the instructions on the product label to ensure safe and effective use.
- Bleach is especially toxic and should not be mixed with anything other than water.
- Keep products in their original containers.
- Keep all laundry products locked up, high, and out of the reach of children.
- Avoid using household cleaners and disinfectants on hands or skin improperly.

Chemicals

- Keep antifreeze and all chemicals and household products in their original containers.
- Never mix household or chemical products together.

IN AN EMERGENCY:
Call the Poison Experts
1-800-222-1222



Spring Forward- "CHANGE your clock, CHECK your Smoke Alarm"

Sunday, March 12, 2023 marks the official time for turning our clocks ahead one hour as we prepare for the arrival of spring sunshine and blossoms. As we prepare to begin Daylight Saving Time, Renton Regional Fire Authority would like to remind everyone that when you change your clocks to Spring forward, don't forget to test your home's smoke alarms. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke.



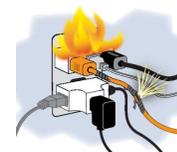
Smoke alarms are powered by either a battery or are hardwired into your home's electrical system. Hardwired smoke alarms are usually equipped with a backup battery. If your smoke alarm is powered by battery, the battery needs to be replaced annually unless it is a long-life battery (*check the owner's manual*). Batteries should be maintained and replaced in accordance with manufacturer's guidance. Choose an annual date, such as Daylight Savings Time, when you will remember to maintain your smoke alarm's condition. Check the manufacturer's expiration date on the label, replace the batteries if needed, and clean dust away from the slots so that smoke can enter freely. All smoke alarms, hard-wired and battery powered, should be replaced every 10 years. These simple steps will help ensure that you and your family will have the best chance of surviving if a fire should occur.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Plug Into the Facts-Electrical Safety

Electricity is there to help brew your morning coffee, operate your computer, heat your home and run your television. We use electricity so often that we seldom remember about the dangers associated with it. Take a moment to think about how often you depend upon electricity and answer the following questions:

- Are electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?
- Are electrical outlets overloaded in your home?
- Are electrical cords kept out from beneath furniture and rugs?
- Are extension cords being used like "permanent" wiring?
- Are heat producing electrical appliances unplugged when not using them?
- Are children playing around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons, and hair dryers?
- Are clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters?



Safety Tips

- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit a two slot outlet.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed or cracked, replace them.
- Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.

Never use water on an electrical fire, you could get shocked. If the fire is small, turn the power off and use a multi-purpose (ABC) dry-chemical extinguisher to put out the fire. If you can't turn the power off, or the fire is large, evacuate your home and dial 9-1-1 from a safe location.



February 2023 Significant Incidents:

Significant Incident Monthly Summary:

- 1,520 Total Incidents (RFA Responses)
 - 2 Significant Incidents
 - 0 Significant EMS Calls
 - 2 Significant Fire Calls
 - 0 Significant Special Ops Calls
 - 14 Significant Malicious False Alarm Calls

Incident Details:

- On February 5, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a building fire in Station 16's area on the 5600 block of NE 1st Circle. Renton RFA responded with King County Medic One and 5 engines, 1 aid unit, 2 officer rigs for a total of 19 RFA personnel. Units arrived on scene to a working fire in an unoccupied single-family residence. The first unit to arrive reported smoke and flames from the roof then completed a 360 search. The source of the fire was located in the attic with unknown cause. Crews were notified of an off-duty Seattle firefighter who entered the residence for primary search to rescue dogs that were reported inside. RFA crews were immediately assigned for rescue/primary search then found the Seattle FF outside with 1 dog who confirmed 2 dogs remained inside. Crews quickly put out the fire, performed a complete search and reported nothing else found. The 2 remaining dogs were removed and uninjured, and the scene was turned over to the Renton RFA fire investigator who determined the fire was caused by a faulty exhaust fan.
- On February 27, 2023, Renton RFA responded to an apartment fire in Station 11's area on the 300 block of Vuemont PI NE. Renton RFA responded with Puget Sound RFA and King County Medic One and 7 engines, 2 aid units, 2 officer rigs for a total of 26 RFA personnel. Units received reports of smoke coming from the seams of the roof. On scene, crews attacked the main fire unit on the 2nd floor of the 3-story building, conducted a primary search and checked the surrounding areas. The resident residing in the fire unit was taken to the front of the building by a neighbor. He was treated then transported to Valley Medical Center. A second patient was found during the primary search, located directly above the main fire. She is blind and deaf and was carried out of the building. Crews remained with the patient who was evaluated by Medic One, then transported to VMC. The scene was turned over to Renton RFA fire investigators who believed it was likely caused by a portable space heater.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://rentonrfa.com>

