

Partners In Preparedness



KCDEM
Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management

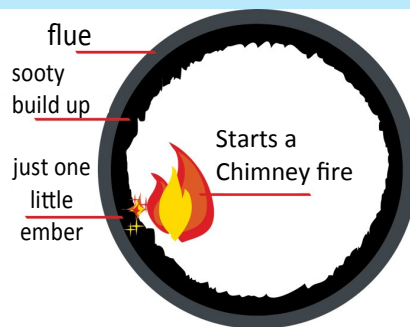


The Facts About Chimney Fires

Your chimney adds architectural interest to your home, but its real function is to carry the by-products of combustion from your fireplace, wood stove or furnace safely out of your home. As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls can cause chimney fires.



Anatomy of a chimney fire



As you snuggle in front of a cozy fire or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, the last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires, your enjoyment may be very short-lived. Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which may damage or destroy homes and injure or kill people.

Proper Maintenance

Clean chimneys don't catch fire! Make sure a certified chimney sweep inspects and cleans your chimney annually.

For more **PREPAREDNESS** tips, visit the Bainbridge Island Fire Department website at www.bifd.org