



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Avoid a Fire – Service Your Heating Appliances)**

With cooler weather setting in, many residents are switching on their heating systems or hauling in wood for their wood stoves. Hillsboro Fire and Rescue reminds you now is the time to have your heating system inspected and cleaned to ensure proper operation throughout the winter. Handy homeowners may choose to do this task themselves. However, it is best to have a qualified heating system technician inspect your home's system for leaks that can pump deadly carbon monoxide into your living spaces. A small crack in the heat exchanger can allow the carbon monoxide to escape into the circulating air. It is always a good idea to install a carbon monoxide (CO) detector in any home that has an appliance that produces CO. The heater experts can also clean and lubricate moving parts to ensure your heater's quiet and proper operation.

If you have a fireplace or wood stove, consider having a reputable chimney sweep clean and inspect your chimney or flue pipes and remove build-ups of creosote. This tar-like substance cakes the inside of your chimney and can catch fire if not removed periodically. Chimney fires can often lead to attic or roof fires with devastating results to your home.

Finally, remember to dispose of your fireplace or woodstove ashes safely. Hot embers can remain in the ashes for many days after a fire and the act of removing the ash can rekindle those embers. The best practice is to place all fireplace and wood stove ashes in a covered, metal container. Wait at least a week before disposing of ashes in garbage barrels. For more fire and life safety information, visit:

[www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire) or call 503-681-6166. For periodic information on activities at Hillsboro Fire and Rescue, visit [www.hillsborofire.blogspot.com](http://www.hillsborofire.blogspot.com).