



# Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

*Serving North Spokane County*

3219 E. Chattaroy Rd.  
Chattaroy, WA 99003  
509-467-4500  
[www.scfd4.org](http://www.scfd4.org)

---

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 31, 2015  
Contact: Chief Randy Johnson (509) 467-4500 [randyj@scfd4.org](mailto:randyj@scfd4.org)

## **Cold weather reminders from Spokane County Fire District 4**

*As the temperature drops, the risk increases for fires and other emergencies*

Chattaroy, Wash. – As the winter continues on, Spokane County Fire District 4 is here to help with safety reminders for avoiding weather-related fires and injuries.

### **Remove dry Christmas trees soon**

Forty percent of house fires in the month of January are caused by dry Christmas trees still standing inside homes. This is 100% preventable – remove your Christmas tree as soon as possible.

### **Prevent chimney fires**

Burn dry, seasoned wood in your wood stove or fireplace. Make sure that the fire burns hot from time to time, rather than a low burn all of the time, to prevent the buildup of creosote inside the chimney. If you see a glowing chimney pipe, or flames coming from the top of the chimney, call 911.

### **Prevent fires inside and around the home**

Don't use portable heaters without making sure you are following the manufacturer's directions for safety. Keep combustibles away from heat sources. Take extra care when using alternative heating sources, i.e. heat lamps, heated water bowls, animal heating pads, etc. DO NOT use any open flame devices for thawing pipes or any frozen fixtures around the home. Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order and be sure to check them every month.

### **Keep walkways and hydrants clear**

It seems that every time you turn around, there is more snow on that walkway or ice has built up again! Keep those paths clear to avoid a fall that will ruin your, or someone else's, day. Check the hydrants closest to your home – they should have a 3-foot area around them clear of snow and other obstructions.

### **Hypothermia**

If working or playing outside, keep your head warm and stay dry if possible to avoid hypothermia. Check on vulnerable neighbors and the elderly who are more susceptible to cold temperatures. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, slow speech, fatigue and confusion. If you suspect someone is hypothermic, call 911, and protect them from further cold.

###

*Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 calls per year, of which approximately 80 percent are for EMS. Fire District 4 is proud to operate under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state.*