



FLORENCE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Florence Rural Fire District and the Florence Firefighters Association would like to thank the Florence Community for your continued support for the yearly July 4th fireworks show. Your donations help make the fireworks show possible, and we look forward to next year's dinner and fireworks show.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH PRIDE

For the year 2018, members of the Florence Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to 310 calls, and approximately 75% of those calls were medical related emergencies.

Members of the Department provided over 6,400 volunteer hours handling emergency calls, 3,600 volunteer hours for training requirements and over 3,100 volunteer hours in administrative duties and functions, for a total of over 13,100 volunteer hours.

All members of the Fire District are VOLUNTEERS, serving with PRIDE!

BE HALLOWEEN SAFE

Halloween can be a fun and spooky time of the year for kids. Make trick or treating safe for your kids!

- ♦ Provide children with flashlights or glow sticks to carry so they can see and be seen.
- ♦ Use reflective material in costumes, choose light colors if possible.
- ♦ Choose face paint and make up instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- ♦ Keep all decorations away from open flames and heat sources.
- ♦ Use battery operated candles or glow sticks in decorations. If a real flame is used, use caution. Watch children at all times when candles are lit.
- ♦ When walking or crossing streets, watch for vehicles. Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

DID YOU KNOW: Decorations are the first to ignite in over 900 reported home fires every year in the United States. Two of every five of these fires were started by a lit candle. Please use caution with open flames!



See us online at:
www.florencefire.us
Twitter:
[FlorenceFireMT](https://twitter.com/FlorenceFireMT)

VEHICLE UPGRADED



This year, the Florence Rural Fire District refurbished an older wildland fire truck which was 25 years old and in need of upgrades and replacements. The District purchased a new 2019 chassis and took the pump/tank system, which had been installed several years ago replacing an older pump unit, and installed it on the new chassis. This “new” unit has new updated vehicle safety equipment, upgraded safety and emergency lights and new brighter work lights. This upgraded unit will provide fire crews with enhanced safety features and a new vehicle for many years to come.

HEATING SAFETY

As colder weather approaches, heaters and fireplaces become used more.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three foot “kid-safe zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating appliances cleaned and inspected each year.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the correct type fuel for space heaters and stoves.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Have on all levels of the house.
- Never use gasoline to start a fire.

DID YOU KNOW: Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February, and fixed heaters, including wood stoves, are involved in most residential heating fires. Be Fire Safe!

Twitter site: [FlorenceFireMT](https://twitter.com/FlorenceFireMT)

See us at: www.florencefire.us

WINTER HOLIDAY TIPS

Winter Holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. That also means a greater risk of fire. Following these few tips, hopefully will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

- * Be careful with decorations. Chose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- * Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- * Some holiday lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both, unless indicated for both indoor/outdoor use.
- * Replace lights that are broken or power cords that are frayed or damaged.
- * Blow out lit candles when you leave a room or go to bed.
- * Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- * Stay in the kitchen when cooking to keep an eye on the food.
- * Keep children away from the stove and other hot appliances.
- * Keep the floor clear of toys, bags, pets and kids so you don't trip over them.
- * Keep sharp items out of reach of children.
- * Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle or other open flame device.
- * Choose a tree that is fresh and has green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- * Cut 2" off the bottom of the tree base, before placing in a tree stand.
- * Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from a heat source.
- * Be sure to add water to the tree daily.
- * Do not block doors with the tree



DID YOU KNOW: One-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.

Two of every five decoration fires occur because the decoration is too close to a heat source.

The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking, and most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.



FLORENCE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

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VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH PRIDE

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- ♦ When in a vehicle, always wear your seat belts and allow for extra stopping distances if roads are wet, icy or snowy.
- ♦ Gather supplies in case of a power outage. Have enough supplies, firewood, heating fuel, food, water, extra medications and special supplies that you might need to have for a few days. Have extra pet foods and supplies for your pets too!
- ♦ Make sure your vehicles have winter supplies too; extra food and water, warm clothing, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit, and a glass scraper. Make sure that your tires are in good condition with good tread, inflated properly and keep the gas tank full.
- ♦ Monitor weather reports and warnings for freezing weather and winter storms.
- ♦ Wear appropriate clothing, layer clothes and have warm gloves and hats too!
- ♦ When using open flame devices, make sure you have good clearance away from flammable items.
- ♦ Prepare your home to keep the cold out with insulation, caulking and weather stripping.
- ♦ Prepare your pipes to keep them from freezing.
- ♦ Make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are tested and working.
- ♦ When outdoors, dress warmly, watch for ice, take your time walking to avoid slipping.