

# FIRE PREVENTION TIPS



Albertville Fire Department



## Fireplace Safety

- **Keep combustible materials three feet away from the fire and heat source.**
- **Only burn dry, cured wood** –logs that have been split, stacked, and dried for eight to 12 months. Cover your log pile on top, but leave the sides open for air flow.
- **Burn firewood and only firewood!** Crates, lumber, construction scraps, painted wood, or other treated wood release chemicals into your home, compromising air quality.
- **Close the damper when not using your wood fireplace** to prevent warm indoor air and the dollars you're spending to heat it from rushing up the chimney.
- **Keep bifold glass doors open when burning a fire** to allow heat to get into the room. Except on a factory built, prefab wood fireplace with a circulating fan, keep doors closed to prevent unnecessary heat loss.
- **Have a chimney cap installed** to prevent objects, rain, and snow from falling into your chimney, and to reduce downdrafts. Caps have side vents so smoke escapes.
- **Replace a poorly sealing damper to prevent heat loss.** A top-mounted damper that also functions as a rain cap provides a tighter closure than a traditional damper for your wood fireplace.
- **Get your chimney cleaned twice a year if you burn more than three cords of wood annually.** A cord is 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long or the amount that would fill two full-size pickup trucks.
- **To burn a fire safely, build it slowly, adding more wood as it heats.** Keep the damper of your wood fireplace completely open to increase draw in the early stages. Burn the fire hot, at least occasionally with the damper all the way open to help prevent smoke from lingering in the fireplace and creosote from developing.



### Remember:

**Make sure your home is equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors!!**  
**Check Regularly to make sure they are working properly**

