



CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Santa Cruz County

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PRESS RELEASE

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"Fireplace Safety"

Central Fire District would like to remind homeowners to be fire safe when disposing of ashes from fireplaces or wood stoves. Hot coals and embers can be concealed in fireplace ash and smolder for hours. When disposing of ashes, always use a metal can with a lid. Store the metal container outside away from your home and combustible materials until the ashes are cool. Coals and embers can stay hot for hours or days. Never store ashes inside of your home or garage. Do not dispose of ashes with household garbage. Another idea is to cool the ashes in the container with water. Cooled ashes can be used as fertilizer, but do not dispose of ashes in compost. Never use trash or charcoal as fuel. These may give off toxic gases when they burn. Flammable liquids should not be used to light fires. Vapors from the liquids can flash back when lit and cause burn injuries. These are just a few common sense ideas. For more fire safety information, check the Central Fire District website at www.centralfpd.com or contact your local fire department.

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