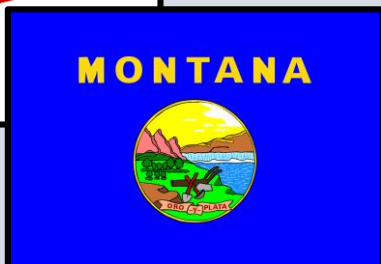
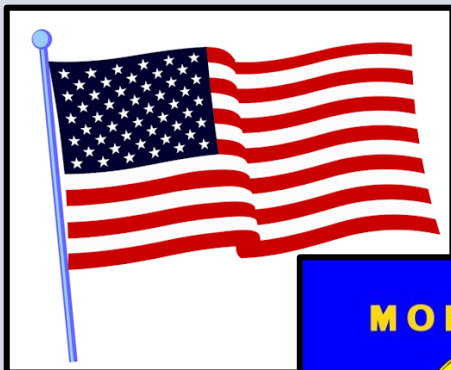


Missoula County Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 4Q2022

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Missoula Neighborhood Watch:
Looking out for each other!

Missoula Neighborhood Watch focuses on 1) observation and reporting of suspicious activity and 2) training citizens in ways to make their homes and neighborhoods safer.

**MISSOULA
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH**



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

Reach out to Missoula Neighborhood Watch for more information.

Email:

missoulaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/MissoulaNW> or search "Missoula Neighborhood Watch"

USPS mail:

MNW, P.O. Box 1334, Lolo, MT 59847



Common Scams and Crimes – Information from the FBI

The FBI website (<https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes>) provides information to protect you against the most common fraud schemes. Here is a list of the types of Scams and related Crimes of which you should be aware:

1. Adoption fraud
2. Business and investment fraud
3. Business email compromise
4. Charity and disaster fraud
5. Consumer fraud schemes
6. Elder fraud
7. Election crimes and security
8. Health care fraud
9. Holiday scams
10. Money mules
11. Ransomware
12. Romance scams
13. Sextortion: what kids and caregivers need to know
14. Skimming
15. Spoofing and Phishing

The above was taken from the FBI website, Common Scams and Crimes at <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes>



Power's Out – what you should and should not do

Cold weather is here. Do you know what to do, and what not to do, if your power fails during cold weather?

Check out the lists below:

Before the Blackout:

1. Stock an emergency box – Flashlights, batteries, first aid supplies, prescription medications, blankets, water and food
2. Wrap water pipes – insulate them to protect from freezing and know how to shut off the main water supply line to your house
3. Keep your gas tank filled – gas pumps run on electricity
4. Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors work – check batteries and install them if necessary

During a Blackout:

1. Don't Bake – never use your stove or oven to heat you home. This can led to a fire or a buildup of carbon monoxide
2. Keep generators away from the house – aim for at least 20 feet for safety. Never run a generator in your garage, even with the door open.
3. Drip it – allow a trickle of water to run from at least one faucet to keep the water moving to prevent freezing and pipe damage

The above was taken from the AARP magazine with modifications: AARP Magazine, February/March, 2022, aarp.org/magazine

Winter Holiday Safety

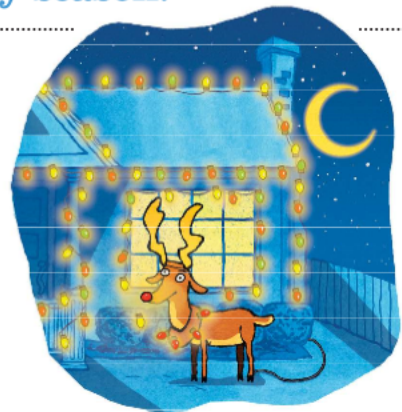
Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

-))) Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
-))) Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
-))) Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
-))) Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
-))) Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
-))) Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

-))) Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
-))) Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
-))) Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
-))) Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
-))) Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
-))) Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **One-quarter** of home decoration fires happen in December.
- ! **More than half** of the December home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Half** of the holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education