



Hot Spots from the State Fire Marshal November 2012

Free materials available on cooking fire safety

With the beginning of holiday season, there will be many family gatherings and events with cooking as a focus. Cooking-related fires and injuries normally increase around the holidays. Since 2008, there has been a steady upward trend in cooking-related fires in Oregon. The OSFM has free education materials available to help your department or district get the word out on cooking fire safety. For more information, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8245 or terry.wolfe@state.or.us.

SFM Wallace encourages participation in Fire Chasers project

State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace is encouraging all Oregon fire agencies and community groups to participate in a research study by the Fire Chasers research group based at North Carolina State University. Fire Chasers will be contacting select high wildfire risk communities across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana to study community preparedness and coordination in response to large wildfire and disaster events. Failures in effective communication and coordination can lead to problematic or dangerous outcomes and the project proposes to leverage existing networks and social coordination to determine how pre-fire relationships and capacities affect preparedness before a wildfire, and communication during a wildfire. The central component of the project will be a comprehensive, county-level assessment and survey involving about 40 organizations, community groups, and agencies that are key to wildfire response. For more information, contact Dr. Branda Nowell at Branda_nowell@ncsu.edu or [visit the Fire Chasers website](#).

Kidde announces new smoke alarm technology

The Kidde company has announced a new line of sealed smoke alarms with 10 year batteries and dual sensing technology. These new lines of smoke alarms contain either a photoelectric or ionization sensor with a 10 year lithium battery sealed inside the unit. Certain model smoke alarms are also available with a carbon monoxide sensor, and a voice alarm. According to the company these new alarms are now available at retail outlets.