



City of Madison Fire Department

News Release

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Fire on Glenway Street Causes \$50,000 Damage To Home

On Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 12:35 AM, City of Madison Firefighters were called to a structure fire at 40 Glenway Street. As crews approached the single family home, a column of black smoke was billowing from the front door, where the occupant of the home was standing. Fire crews gained entry, and found the smoke had banked four feet from the floor throughout the structure. Fire crews extinguished a fire within 13 minutes.

While burning a fire in the fireplace the occupant fell asleep, when a log fell from the fireplace and caught paper and wood items on fire. The occupant awoke and tried to put the fire out several times before calling 911. The occupant and his dog escaped from the home. Smoke detectors were not found in the home.

The occupant was treated at the scene, but was not transported.

Red Cross was notified. Occupant has insurance.

Engine 9, Engine 4, Ladder 2, Ladder 1, Rescue 9, Engine 3, Car 31 and PIO 79 were called to the scene.

The fire damage is estimated at \$50,000.

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US Fire Administration recommends the following on Fireplace and Home Safety:

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.



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- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

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