

## A few reminders from the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department



*If you are only going to read  
one article in Tales, this one the  
one to read!!  
It may save your life.*

The Tinmouth Volunteer Department conducted a review of our fire calls.

Based on the review, we would like to provide new information and re-state some previously shared information.

1. **If you smell smoke, CALL 911, and evacuate.** 911 is the number to call, not your local fire fighter or Mo Squier. (Our insurance covers us ONLY if we are dispatched by 911)
2. **Then, and only then, if you can safely extinguish the fire do so.** Keep track of your escape route. If your escape route degrades, stop fighting the fire and evacuate. Calling 911 immediately gives the Fire department those crucial minutes we need to turn out. We would much rather turn out to a false alarm, than have a large fire because we were not called earlier.

### Check Your Smoke Detectors

Make sure your smoke detector works, test it monthly. Change the batteries in your smoke detector when we move the clocks for DST.

### Fire Extinguishers

Have multiple fire extinguishers. Place them by the exit doors. Check the gauge monthly.

### Clean Your Chimney

Before it gets too cold, now is the time to clean your chimney. Remember a chimney fire can become a house fire in no time.

### Do Not Burn Cardboard

Please do not burn cardboard in your stove, fireplace or outside. If you burn cardboard, the cardboard can lodge itself in your chimney. Also, if you burn cardboard outside it can contribute to a brush fire. Cardboard can be recycled for free at the transfer station.

### Grease or Oil Soaked Rags

Spontaneous combustion or spontaneous ignition, as it is often called, is the occurrence of fire without the application of an external heat source. Due to chemical, biological, or physical processes, combustible materials **self-heat** to a temperature high enough for ignition to occur.

How does this apply to us in Tinmouth? Here is a list of some of the items that can spontaneously combust.

Rags and towels soaked with oils, including cooking oils, linseed oil or varnish; hot laundry left in piles; large compost, mulch, manure, and leaf piles; and moist baled hay can spontaneously combust in the right conditions.

Avoid this type of fire by following a few simple and proven tips:

- If you're working on a project at home, spread the soiled rags in a single layer on concrete to prevent the buildup of heat and allow the rags to become hard and brittle. Place the rags out of direct sunlight and secure the corners to prevent movement by wind. Then put in a covered metal can.
- Hay should be completely dry before baling and moving to a storage facility. Ensure that the facility is well ventilated.

### Ashes From a Wood Stove or Fireplace

When you take ashes out of your stove or fireplace, put them in a metal container with a lid. These can be placed on the garden. Please do not put them in the brush pile at the Transfer Station. If you put them on the brush pile, they can start the brush pile on fire. Yes, this has happened in Tinmouth.

**We are here to serve you, please help us, help you, by following these instructions.  
Thank you for your cooperation. Be Safe.**