Smoking and Fires

According to the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Office, people falling asleep while smoking is the leading cause of fire fatalities in our state. Frequently, the fires begin when upholstered furniture, mattress and bedding are ignited and the person that is smoking is the most likely to die in those fires.

If You Smoke... Follow These Precautions

- Never smoke in sleeping areas.
- Remove all smoking materials from sleeping areas.
- Do not smoke on or near upholstered furniture.
- Only smoke when you are awake and alert.
- Use heavy deep ashtrays while smoking.
- Never smoke while on medications.
- Never smoke while on medical oxygen.
- Never smoke when consuming drugs and/or alcohol.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

Protect Your Home From Fire

A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by nearly half.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Make sure to install fresh batteries annually, or better yet, install 10 year Lithium-Ion batteries/alarms.
- Consider residential sprinkler systems for the ultimate in protection.

Escape Plan

Fire prevention and preparation can save lives!

- You have a plan of escape showing two ways out of every room in your home - especially bedrooms.
- You regularly practice your escape plan by holding fire drills in your home.
- Every phone is labeled with a 911 sticker and your address.

Consider Not Smoking

If you want to stop smoking call the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line at (877-270-STOP). A trained specialist will provide you with one-on-one counseling and a customized plan to help you quit for good. Remember, calling the quit line can double your chances of quitting successfully.

For More Information Contact:
Tacoma Fire Department
Public Education Office
253.591.5740
www.tacomafiredepartment.org