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**Contact: Local Contact Name**Local Contact Title
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**Time for Spring Cleaning! Take Special Care with Household Chemicals to Reduce Your Fire Risk**

Spring cleaning should always include going through household chemicals. Often, during cold weather, chemicals are haphazardly stored in a cold garage or shed or even under the kitchen sink. While tackling the yearly urge to purge a home of things accumulated over the winter, it’s a good idea to pay special attention to the chemicals stored in and around your home. You’ll be surprised at what’s accumulated!

Make it a priority to go through your household chemicals! Don’t stockpile what you don’t need. It’s best to only keep on hand what will be used in two or three months’ time. Be sure to note the expiration dates on the containers and throw out what has expired. Also, keep them up and away from curious kids. A high shelf in a garage makes an ideal storage place to keep kids away from danger, reduces the chance of accidental spills that could cause fires and gets the clutter off your floors. If storing gasoline, make sure to use only approved containers, tightly sealed and set in a cool, dry place where the container will remain undisturbed. Again, don’t stockpile! Gas works best when fresh, and the less you have, the less your risk of a serious fire.

Remember, improper storage of household chemicals is a major fire hazard. Use spring cleaning to your advantage. Take the time to dispose of expired chemicals and those you don’t need. This easy preventable measure will help to ensure your family is safe from a preventable fire.

**Insert your Department name** relies on brave men and women to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Men and women with almost every skill set are needed. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact **Insert your Dept name at Insert website** or call **Insert your Dept phone number**.

There are volunteer opportunities at your local volunteer fire department for citizens willing to work hard. To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining your local volunteer fire department, please visit [VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).

***About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)****The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA’s mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at* [*www.tnfirechiefs.com*](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) *.*

***About Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS)****The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association was awarded a SAFER recruitment and retention grant in 2016 and partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to identify recruitment and retention goals, strategies and marketing methodologies that would benefit not only participating departments, but all fire departments in the state. 19 departmental groups, consisting of 64 departments, were selected to participate in Phase I of the program. The VWS program is also operating in Virginia through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Connecticut through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. There is also currently a National VWS effort focusing on diversity and new trainings. More information about the Tennessee VWS can be found at* [*www.VolunteerFireTN.org*](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org)*.*

*(Insert info about your department in similar format to above)*