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**Proper Home Maintenance of Washers and Dryers Can Reduce Your Family’s Fire Risk**

Ready to tackle your spring cleaning? Don’t forget your washer and dryer! Proper care and maintenance of these two appliances can ensure your family’s safety from a home fire. Washers and dryers are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States.

The leading cause of washing-machine fires are faulty electrical wires, crumbling cable insulation and bad appliance housings or casings. Give your washer the once over and make sure all mechanical parts are clean and thoroughly insulated where they should be. Don’t wash clothes that are soaked in flammable liquids. Spill gasoline on a shirt? Have oily rags? Throw them out! The washing machine may not remove all the spill. Placing oil or gas-soaked items in a dryer could cause a spark that may start a fire.

Dryer fires are an all too common and avoidable occurrence. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), every year, firefighters across the America respond to around 14,630 home fires caused by clothes dryers. These fires are responsible for nine deaths, 420 civilian injuries and $222 million in property damage annually.

An accumulation of lint causes one out of four fires. Clean your lint filter every time you do a load of laundry. Make it a habit, before you remove your dried clothing from the machine, to clean the lint filter first. Never use a dryer that doesn’t have a lint filter. Replacements are easily available at minimal cost. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.

More tips on washer and dryer safety are available at the NFPA website at [bit.ly/WashDrySafety](http://bit.ly/washdrysafety).

**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 those 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)*