



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2019

Smoking

Smoking Facts:

Smoking materials, including cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, started an estimated 17,200 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2014.

Smoking fires caused 570 deaths, 1,140 injuries and \$426 million in direct property damage.

Smoking materials caused 5% of reported home fires, 21% of home fire deaths, 10% of home fire injuries, and 6% of the direct property damage.

Smoking materials are a leading cause of preventable fire deaths.

Local Statistics

In 2018, VFD responded to 111 building fires of which 7 were caused by smoking or smoking related materials.

Safety Tips

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.

- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.



- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure the fire is out. Dousing them in water or sand is the best way to ensure the butts are out.

Always Remember:

- Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal.
- Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported.
- Battery failures in e-cigarettes have led to small explosions.
- Always use caution with e-cigarettes and never leave them unattended.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Top-causes-of-fire/Smoking>

Don't let your dreams go up in smoke - practice fire safety. ~Author Unknown

The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.

One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to: valdostafire@valdostacity.com

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

dox TI JOB
dox

Answers to last month's wuzzles are open to discussion and blessing in disguise.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. Most smoking deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms and dens or in bedrooms.
A. True
B. False
2. Federal law placed the standard age to purchase/sell tobacco products at _____.
A. 30
B. 12
C. 21
D. 18

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. B.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief