



News Release

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MARCH SAFETY MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

(SUNRISE, FL)- Practicing fire safety everyday is one of the best ways to prevent fires and to keep your home and family safe. Most home fires are easily preventable by being alert and aware. One common, but often overlooked cause of home fires is due to home clothes dryers.

Sunrise Fire-Rescue has seen a rise in fires originating from home clothes dryers. Most commonly, this is caused by lint build-up or improper ventilation.

Lint from clothing can build up in the dryer or in the exhaust vent. This lint blocks the air flow preventing the heat from properly venting. Lint is extremely flammable, and this trapped heat can cause the lint to ignite posing potential fire hazards.

Failure to clean dryer lint filters and exhaust vents is the leading cause of these types of fires. It is important to clean the lint screens after each use. Periodically checking around the dryer can help to ensure the exhaust vent hose is not kinked and is able to flow air freely. When in doubt, contracting with a qualified appliance repair service is recommended.

The National Fire Protection Agency has suggested these simple safety tips to help keep your dryer clean and ultimately help to prevent this type of fire:

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. 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.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

And, as always, remember to check and test all smoke detectors at least twice a year.

For more information and safety tips, visit the City of Sunrise website at www.sunrisefl.gov. In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.

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