

# HASCO TIMES

Fire Safety Issue 2023

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## LEARN ABOUT FIRES

- **Fire is FAST!** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
- **Fire is HOT!** Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
- **Fire is DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- **Fire is DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy.

<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>



# Smoke Alarms



<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

- A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.
- Replace batteries twice a year, unless you are using 10-year lithium batteries.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking – it can be a deadly mistake.
- Audible alarms are available for visually impaired people and smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light are available for the hearing impaired.

**SMOKE ALARM Safety Sheet**

Families: Smoke alarms save lives. Make sure the smoke alarms in your home are working. Hang up this handy chart to remind you to test your smoke alarms every month.

MONTH	TESTED SMOKE ALARMS	SMOKE ALARMS WORKED
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		
JANUARY		
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		

## Sparky Teaches Kids about Fire Safety

<https://www.sparky.org>

Make learning about fire safety fun for your kids!

The National Fire Protection Association's interactive website has many exciting games for your kids to try out!

Sparky the Fire Dog will help them understand the basics of what to do in an emergency and how to prevent one.

# Fire Prevention Tips

<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

## Holiday Safety

- Turn off holiday lights at night or when you leave the house.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from flammable materials or consider using flameless candles.
- Water your Christmas tree daily and don't let it dry out. A dry tree is more flammable.
- Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and not blocking an exit.
- Don't overload extension cords and outlets.



## Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. Turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep a fire extinguisher available.

## Electrical and Appliance Safety

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.



## Hoarding & Fire Safety

The American Psychiatric Association estimates that approximately 2.6% of people have hoarding disorder, with higher rates for people over 60 years old and people with other mental health struggles.

Read below to learn the fire-safety risks of hoarding and how you can keep yourself and first responders safe.

### Risks:

- Personal items can crowd cooking equipment, making it unsafe to cook.
- Personal items can crowd heating equipment, putting you at risk of having a fire.
- Difficulties for firefighters:
- Blocked windows and doors make it difficult for firefighters to get into your home to fight the fire and search for occupants.
- Piles of belongings make it difficult for firefighters to move through your home quickly.

### Important to Remember:

- Always keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from cooking and heating equipment.
- Keep doorways and windows clear for escape in case there is a fire. This will also prevent injuries from falling over excessive personal items.

Visit their website for more information:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/at-risk-audiences/hoarding/>

## WATCH OUT FOR TOXIC LEAD IN PAINT AND OTHER PRODUCTS

- Lead comes from paint and much more than you may think. Lead is a common metal that has been used in products for hundreds of years. It is a naturally occurring heavy metal that is toxic when it enters our bodies. Lead poisoning occurs through ingestion (when lead enters the body through the mouth) or inhalation (when lead enters the body through breathing in lead dust). You may be aware of paint as a common source of lead, however, there are many more sources of lead that you should be aware of to protect you and your family from lead poisoning.
- Lead exposure can occur if you or a family member works in a job or participates in a hobby that uses lead (smelting, firing ranges, demolition, home remodeling, battery manufacturing, stained glass, making fishing lures and sinkers, furniture refinishing, etc.). Other sources of lead include imported candies and spices, traditional remedies or cosmetics (such as Azarcon, Greta, Kohl, Kajal, Surma, Sindoor), dishware with lead-containing glaze or paint, aluminum pressure cookers, and certain inexpensive children's jewelry or costume jewelry.
- Take some time to think about any potential sources of lead that you and your family may be exposed to and take the necessary steps to remove and/or limit exposure to sources of lead and prevent lead poisoning.

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.snohd.org/432/Lead-and-Health>

For questions or comments, call 425-258-8401 or email [leadprogram@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:leadprogram@co.snohomish.wa.us)





# Resident Advisory Board for 2024

HASCO is looking for Section 8 Voucher Program participants to serve in our 2024 Resident Advisory Board (RAB). Your participation in the RAB will provide valuable input on HASCO priorities for the coming year! Feedback from program participants is important!

If you are interested in serving on the Resident Advisory Board or would like more information, please contact HASCO's TBA Administrative Specialist, Sara O'Neill at [sconeill@hasco.org](mailto:sconeill@hasco.org) or [425-474-7021](tel:425-474-7021) by October 25th.

## In-person

November 1, 2023 at 1pm  
12711 4th Ave W  
Everett, WA 98204

## Virtual

November 2, 2023 at 5pm  
Microsoft Teams  
(Link will be provided upon registration)

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY**  
**12711 4TH AVENUE W.**  
**EVERETT, WA 98204**

**HASCO's Business Hours:**

Staff are available by phone at (425) 290-8499

Monday - Thursday: 8AM—4:30PM

Friday: 8AM—12PM

**Our office is open for appointments and walk-ins:**

Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00am – 3:00pm.

HASCO will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- November 10, Veterans' Day
- November 23 & 24, Thanksgiving
- December 25, Christmas

For information about our programs, resources, and a version of this newsletter in Spanish check out our website at [www.hasco.org](http://www.hasco.org).

Para obtener información sobre nuestros programas, recursos y una versión de este boletín en español, visite nuestro sitio web en [www.hasco.org](http://www.hasco.org).

