

Southern Pines Police Department
Safety Tips
Fireplace Safety

If you plan to use a fireplace, prepare now to help prevent a chimney fire. Have your fireplace and chimney inspected by a qualified professional. Make any necessary repairs and have them cleaned if needed. While fireplaces provide a nice atmosphere and even some heat to the home, they are usually not designed to be used as an alternate heating source. However, during power outages, many people use them to heat their homes. This means fireplaces are burning almost constantly for up to several days. As a result, the brick and firebox walls heat up considerably and can catch the wall on fire. When cleaning out the fireplace, remember the ashes may be hot for several hours or even days. Remove them carefully using a metal shovel and discard the ashes in a metal can. Don't store the can in the home or garage or near any walls or structures and don't put paper or other garbage in the same can. If possible, take the can outside and use a garden hose to water down the ashes. Plan ahead for fireplace use and take these precautionary steps to help avoid a fire.

For more information or a presentation on this topic, contact the Community Services Coordinator at (910) 692-2732.