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Klickitat PUD 2024 Budget and Rate Hearing

Klickitat PUD Public Rate and Budget hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Klickitat PUD Meeting Room in Goldendale or via teleconference by dialing 1-(844) 621-3956 Access Code: 2481 941 1723.



5 Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt.

Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using corded items, double check to make sure cords are

not frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shutoff feature and overheat protection. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. Outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire when overloaded with electrical items. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better

than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items such as dish towels. ■