

## ATKINSON FIRE DEPARTMENT – HOME SAFETY TIPS

With three quarters of 2006 now history, the fire department has answered 398 emergency calls. About 80% of these calls have been medical/rescue incidents throughout the town. As everyone knows seconds count when answering a medical emergency. Please assist our prompt response by posting your house/apartment unit number where it can be seen from the road in all seasons.

1. Install four (4") inch house numbers or larger.
2. Clean and test your smoke detectors every 60 days. Replace weak batteries. (Although new homes must have electric smoke detectors, with battery back up. Older homes may still have battery only smoke detectors in place. These units need extra care).
3. Have your chimneys cleaned once each year, especially if using a woodstove.
4. If contemplating the installation of a woodstove call the Atkinson Fire Department at 362-4203. A fire inspector will provide you with the regulations to safely install such a unit.
5. If planning to construct a new room or an addition to your new home, please check with the building inspector at 362-1057 who will provide you with the proper procedures to follow.
6. A special note: 4% of all "home" fires originate with the clothes dryer. The vent pipe must not only be installed correctly, but also cleaned on a regular basis. High heat and lint accumulation do not make good home companions.
7. A professional should clean all heating units each year. Use your yellow pages.
8. Within the past few years our homes are being insulated with more and better products. While this helps our heating bill, it does not allow our homes to "breathe" and provide the extra air that our heating units, fireplaces, woodstoves, and clothes dryers need to operate properly. Venting is extremely important.
9. Lastly if venting is not appropriate for your house, (especially with gas appliances) there can be a build-up of Carbon Monoxide, which is extremely dangerous and is a silent killer. The fire department recommends that a carbon monoxide detector be installed in all living units.

Should you have questions, please call 362-4203 and ask for a fire inspector.