

Nye County Emergency Services

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This picture depicts Shaun Gilliland and Shayne Smith packaging a victim of a hazardous materials exposure. They have placed dual blankets on the ground and are packaging the victim to be removed to the contamination reduction corridor for decontamination. The two firefighters use excellent technique to keep any potential contamination away from the patient and themselves

HazMat Operations class- Amargosa, February 2007



The Hazardous Material's class consists of 20 hours of intense training in defensive actions such as damming, diking, diversion, retention, spill control, blanketing, foam and fire-fighting, overflow and underflow dams, decontamination, and remote valve shutoff. The students demonstrated all of these events on the last day of training which culminated in using the newly acquired skills.



This class is the second level of certification through the Nevada State Fire marshal's office in response to release of hazardous materials. The next level is the technician Level which is a 40- hour course encompassing offensive measures.

Steve Maison

In with the new "out with the old"



This week we placed into service three new ambulances. These ambulances will be utilized in the communities of Smoky Valley, Beatty, and Tonopah. These new ambulances are roomy, built to last, and this rotational replacement will help us to update our "floater" ambulances. It may not be goodbye for these 80's vintage ambulances but we won't be using them as primary county back-up vehicles.

They have served us well and deserve a little R & R. As many of you know I am a little partial to these ambulances, they take me back, a little nostalgic journey.

It is not yet clear what will become of them we are currently reviewing options.

Patty Winters

Home Wildland Inspection

Now is the time to protect your property from a wildland fire. Early recognition and preparation now makes it easier for you than when it is hot and dry. Here are some tips in making sure your home is safe:

1. **Check ground fuels:** Light grasses and weeds are now emerging. Make sure they are removed from around any structure, barn, or out-building. They are easier to remove now than when they turn brown. To make it fun: Hook up an old stretch of fence with some bricks or heavy objects to your quad or riding lawnmower and knock down grasses while they are small. It looks good and your neighbors will compliment you on your grading skills.
2. **Look for bushes and ladder fuels that surround your home:** Keep bushes well trimmed and watered. Groom the bushes so there is walking space between the bush and the structure. In addition, this will make it easier to change clogged sprinkler heads and when it is time to paint the outside.
3. **Check for crown fuels:** Up in the trees, crown fuels can ignite the roof of our home. Make sure the branches are at least 30-feet away from the roof area of your home. Remove any dead limbs.
4. Keep your *trimming piles* of leaves, grass, and combustible materials separated from each other with



clear defensible space around. If you have old chicken wire place it over the piles to keep the winds from spreading your compost materials.

5. **Propane tank & Barbecue:** Look around to make sure the weeds are removed from around the tank & barbecue.
6. Check your *water hoses* to see if they have been damaged by the sun during last summer or through the winter months. Also, did you check your burn barrel?

Have a safe and fun summer!!

Steve Maison

Snakes in Springtime

The weather is warming up and we are doing more outside work. The weather is agreeable to us and others, namely snakes.

The desert has many varieties of snakes, mostly benign, the exception is the rattlesnake. The rattlesnake populations in Nye County consist mainly of the Mojave rattlesnake, Sidewinder, Speckled Rattlesnake and the Great Basin Rattlesnake. Rattlesnakes live in elevations from the sea level to 11,000 ft. from the desert valleys to the Mountains.

The potential for running into a rattlesnake is low, but there are a few precautions that can be taken to lessen the chance of being bitten. Snakes are generally nocturnal, hunting and feeding at night but may be encountered in the day time sunning on a rock or shading up under a Creosote bush or sagebrush. Though uncommon, rattlesnake bites do occur. Generally rattlesnakes are not aggressive. They strike when they are threatened or provoked.

8,000 people are treated annually for snake bites in the US per the CDC. However rattlesnakes account for approx. 800 of those bites with only 1 or 2 being fatal.



To avoid getting bit:

- The best protection for snake bites is prevention: Be aware of your surroundings, take care when moving piles of boards, rocks and firewood.
- Wear high, sturdy boots.
- Do not put your hands and feet where you cannot see.
- Avoid wandering around in the dark. Step on rocks and logs, never over.
- Always avoid walking through dense brush.
- Be careful stepping over the doorstep as snakes like to crawl along the edge

of a building where they are protected on one side.

- Give all snakes a wide berth, 5-6 feet to allow them to escape.

The important thing to remember when bitten:

1. **STAY CALM**
2. Seek medical attention, and do not delay.
3. Do not waste time with home remedies, electric shock, cutting yourself and do not use a tourniquet.
4. Elevate the wound and move towards a hospital.

Remember: A good snake is one that is alive and well. Snakes provide humans with tremendous service. They eat rodents, insects and other reptiles, and in turn are eaten by other predators.

STAY SAFE

Jim Medici

Contact Information

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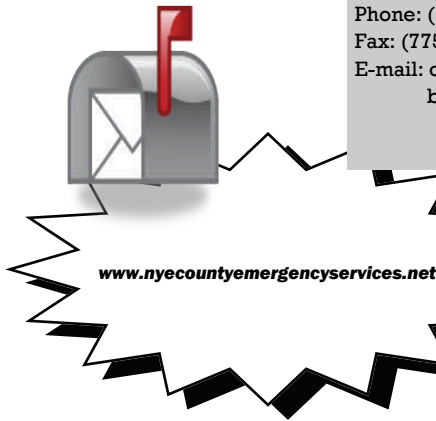
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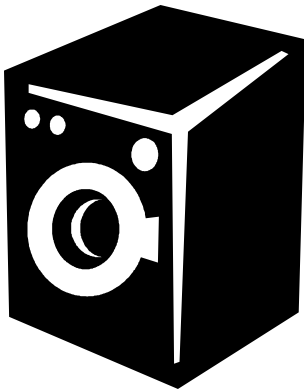
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Clothes Dryer Fires

The U.S fire Administration (USFA) announced that in residential buildings , operational deficiency, including “failure to clean”, is the leading factor contributing to clothes dryer fires followed by mechanical malfunction and electrical failure.

Remember to clean out the lint filter after each use and also check around the vent for lint build up behind the dryer.

A Word from Brent Jones—Director

As we going into the spring and summer months I continue to be impressed by all of the dedicated volunteers who stand fast, ready do what is needed throughout this great County. The three new ambulances are now in service in Smoky Valley, Beatty and Tonopah. I hope that those three agencies are as proud of these new pieces of apparatus as I am.



A New Smoky Valley Water Tender is just about ready to roll off the assembly room floor. We anticipate having the new truck in Smoky Valley by the end of May. This new Water Tender will be a definite asset for that part of the County.

The new Emergency Services facility in Pahrump is slowing making its way towards completion. We joke around the office that in "two weeks" it will be completed. Realistically sometime mid and/or late summer will probably be when we can finally move into that new location, and what a difference it will make!

The new 500 gallon water trailers are being delivered as I write this note. Crystal, Ione, Pahrump, and Nye Station 51 will be glad to see their arrival just prior to wildland fire season beginning. Thanks again to everyone throughout the county who makes what we do possible on a daily basis.

If anyone has any questions, concerns and/or comments please feel free to give me a call and/or e-mail me at your convenience.

Brent