



OSWEGO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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Press Release

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Dryer Fires Cleaning Makes a Difference

(Oswego, IL) The Oswego Fire protection District is reminding all residents to routinely clean out their dryer vents to prevent build-up that can lead to danger.

One of the most common reasons for a house fire stems from the build-up of lint in a dryer. According to the National Fire Protection Association, these fires have caused annual averages of 13 civilian deaths, 444 civilian injuries, and \$238 million in direct property damage.

Most homeowners know to regularly clean out the lint catcher inside their dryer, but few go the extra mile to clean out the tubed vent that connects the dryer to the outside of the home, and that is where problems often occur.

The lint trap inside a dryer does not capture all the lint produced. As the air exits the dryer through the vent hose that leads to the outside of the home, lint particles are carried along with it. Over time, this builds up in the vent and can lead to an obstruction. When this build-up is combined with the high temperatures of a dryer, deadly consequences can ensue.

There are some warning signs associated with a potential lint build-up; 1) you find your dryer is not drying your clothes as well, 2) it takes multiple cycles to get them fully dry or, 3) your dryer is extremely hot to the touch. If you experience any of these, you should immediately check your clothes vent.

It is recommended to clean out the complete dryer and tubular vent at least twice a year. For those that use a dryer daily, the recommendation increases to three to four times annually.

The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.

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