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## **PROPER DISPOSAL OF ASHES (Fireplaces, Pellet Stoves, Woodburners, Etc.)**

With the increased use of fireplaces (Indoor & Outdoor) and alternative heating methods (pellet stoves, corn burners, etc.) the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District has had an increase in fires due to careless/improper disposal of the leftover ashes. Even after several days, piles of ashes can hold enough heat to reignite and start a fire. Therefore, extra care should be used in the storage and final disposal of them.

- All ashes should be stored in a fire-resistant (metal) container with a tight fitting cover (buckets made especially for storage of ashes are available at many area retailers). Any container stored outside should also be secured so that the container and lid do not tip over in high winds. Ashes should NEVER be disposed of in a plastic garbage bag or can, a cardboard box, or paper grocery bag. While this sounds obvious, it happens far too often.
- Once the ashes are in the metal container, make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. This is done either by soaking them in water or leaving them to sit for a few days if practical (and then double checking them for hot spots). Besides doing this for the above-mentioned appliances this also holds true for cigarette and charcoal grill ashes.
- This metal container should then be placed away from anything that can burn. It should not be placed next to the firewood pile, up against the garage, on or under a wooden deck, or under a porch. If stored in a garage, be VERY careful to keep the container well away from any combustible materials.
- After sitting in this metal container for at least a week the ashes, the ashes should again be checked for hot spots. If no hot spots are found, the ashes are then safe to dispose of in your normal trash when taken to the curb.
- DO NOT dispose of ashes in open areas outdoors. Piles of ash lying in open dirt areas can easily become hot and spread to vegetation or buildings with even a light wind.



### **TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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