

NEWS from the
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NEWS RELEASE

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CLOTHES DRYER SAFETY

A recent fire in a clothes dryer left a family out of their home during the Holidays and has prompted the Lake Zurich Fire/Rescue Department to ask each member of the community to review the following safety tips:

- Empty the lint screen in your dryer after every load of clothes.
- Check the vent area behind your dryer to make sure that the flexible and/or hard pipe vent connections are tight and that there is no accumulation of lint.
- Make sure that the flexible vent pipe is UL approved (no plastic) and not TOO long. The pipe should be just long enough to allow movement of the dryer for cleaning or service. A flexible vent pipe that is too long will allow lint to collect and build up in the pipe and not be exhausted the way it should.
- Take the dryer and lint pipe apart at least once a year and clean it completely. If you are uncomfortable doing this, call a repair person.
- Make sure the flexible gas line attached to the dryer is UL approved and free from kinks. It should also be connected to a shut off valve on the supply side.

- Make sure an operating smoke detector is placed in close proximity of the laundry area for early smoke detection.

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The truth is lint is a collection of fiber particles that are very easily ignited. Campers know that a small amount of lint may even become a campfire with mechanical friction to ignite it. Over a period of time every clothes drying appliance becomes a roost for a varied amount of lint. The heating mechanism, the mechanical actions necessary to rotate the dryer, or the electrical components are all sources of heat that can ignite the lint.

Should you experience a dryer fire, please do the following immediately:

- Call 911 and report a fire
- If possible, turn the appliance off
- If possible, close the door to the room
- Get everyone out of the house

The Lake Zurich Fire/Rescue Department wants you to use our services by helping to protect your family and home. For more information, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (847) 540-5073.