

## Will the Fire Department clean my chimney for me?

**No. The fire department does not provide chimney sweep services as there are too many liabilities and issues that may arise. There are licensed professionals that perform cleanings.**

Chimney sweeps inspect, clean and repair residential and commercial chimneys. The traditional method of cleaning chimneys involves a two-step process in which the sweep brushes from the top of the chimney outside the building, and then finishes by sweeping and cleaning the fire box from inside the premises. There are a lot of risks that are associated with operating a chimney sweep.

Liability of a volunteer firefighter, a fire department, or a municipality depends upon all the facts and circumstances in each particular case and, therefore we refrain from actions such as this that could be determined by the courts as negligent.

Please remember when heating devices are not properly maintained, the result can be dangerous and sometimes disastrous

## **FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- ★ Burn dry hardwood - (If possible). If your wood is wet or not fully cured, it will not burn as hot as dry wood. It will also smoke more. Burning wet wood leads to creosote building up faster in your chimney.
- ★ Keep combustibles away. Woodstoves should be at least three feet away from unprotected combustible materials. Keep the area around the hearth clear of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- ★ Keep a fire extinguisher handy for every fireplace or stove.
- ★ Clean your chimney. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist to prevent fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Check your flue regularly for any obstructions such as squirrel or bird nests, debris, etc.
- ★ Check the draft. Before starting a fire in your fireplace or woodstove, be sure the draft is wide open. This allows proper ventilation for your fire.
- ★ Keep your fireplace and chimney in good condition. Check your chimney for cracks and loose mortar or bricks. Have any problems fixed before using your fireplace or wood stove.
- ★ Tend to your fire. Never leave a fire in your fireplace unattended. Make sure the fire is extinguished before going to bed.

**If a fire starts and you have any doubt about whether or not to fight the fire – Don't!**

**Get out and call 9-1-1.**