



## December Newsletter



### *A Safe and Happy Holiday Wish from Chief Leighton*

For a second year in a row, we've enjoyed a below average fire season, with early precipitation and no red flag warnings. This allowed us to move out of drought and end fire restrictions earlier than typical years, providing residents a long season of opportunity to burn green waste piles and harden their homes to wildfire.

I'm proud to report that our community members continue engagement in making our communities more Fire Adapted. Our curbside chipping program remained in high demand, with more 3,600 cubic yards of green waste chipped, and we funded green waste dumpsters for organized community work days that resulted in the removal of over 2,000 cubic yards of flammable biomass. We now have 17 recognized [Firewise USA®](#) communities. That recognition helps homes in those communities to be eligible for [discounts on homeowner's insurance](#).

As the snow moves in, we shift our focus from wildfires to safeguarding our homes from winter fires. Protect your family by ensuring smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working now, and test them monthly. Did you know that there are combination alarms on the market now that can alert you to both a natural gas leak, and to a carbon monoxide leak? Natural gas is different from CO because it isn't a by-product. Instead, natural gas can simply leak into a home because a gas appliance is malfunctioning or a natural gas line is leaking. Natural gas is a fuel and more flammable than carbon monoxide. Give your family the gift of safety and consider upgrading your alarms this winter!

Heating equipment and [improper ash disposal](#) are the leading causes of fires during the fall and winter months. To safely dispose of ashes, cool completely on a noncombustible surface before disposing of them (four days or 96 hours is the minimum recommended cooling period). To safely operate heating devices, always plug directly into a wall outlet and never into a surge protector, and maintain three-

feet of clearance from anything combustible to keep your home safe.

Stay ahead of snow buildup by keeping gas meters and propane tanks clear, which reduces the chance of leaks, and ensures clear access for gas providers and firefighters should the need arise. Check in on each other, especially those vulnerable neighbors both during and after heavy storm systems, and make a plan with community members now to adopt key hydrants in the neighborhood, setting a rotation to keep them cleared of snow.

From our North Tahoe Fire family to you and yours, we wish you safety, good health, happiness, prosperity, and a new year filled with joyous memories!

### ***Funding Partnerships***

North Tahoe Fire is honored to partner with agencies that support district operations through a variety of funding opportunities.



North Tahoe Fire is the proud recipient of gear funded by two organizations who support our firefighters deployed on wildland incidents. The North Tahoe Firefighters Auxiliary raised funds through Snowfest to make a direct donation of ten (10) wildland packs that provide the ergonomic, industry standard in wildland web gear, serving as a match to our Truckee Tahoe Airport District Agency Partnership request. The request was funded to replace the remaining fifty outdated (14+-year-old) packs that were currently in use. That application was approved by the [Truckee Tahoe Airport District](#). Read the TTAD announcement [here](#). A video demonstrating the equipment can be viewed below. Thank you to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and the North Tahoe Firefighters Auxiliary for your generosity and support!



***Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety***



Fires from lithium-ion battery-powered devices are increasing at an alarming rate. With the holiday and gift-giving season approaching, now is the time to learn how to Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety. Watch this video to learn tips on how to prevent these fires by using lithium-ion battery-powered devices safely. Learn more at [batteryfiresafety.org](https://batteryfiresafety.org). #BatteryFireSafety



# TAKE CHARGE OF BATTERY SAFETY



## Incidents involving lithium-ion batteries are on the rise.

Everyday use leads to everyday incidents.

Total incidents reported (1995-2023 YTD)



Consumer Products

1,159

Total Injuries

114

Total Fatalities



Micro-Mobility Devices  
(<20mph)

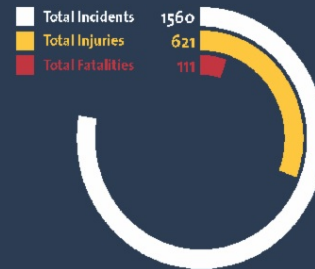
1,140

Total Injuries

214

Total Fatalities

Incidents in 2023 (as of 10/19/2023)



Research provided by UL Solutions: <https://www.ul.com/insights/lithium-ion-battery-incident-reporting>



### New technologies present new risks.

Lithium-ion batteries can go into thermal runaway undetected and result in a fire. Not just any fire, a fire that emits flames, smoke and toxic gases that can cause an explosion and spread throughout a house, apartment, or storefront.

### Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety.

The best way to be safe is to prevent a lithium-ion battery fire from starting. Take these important actions now.



**Choose certified products.**

**Handle with care.**

**Always stay alert for warning signs.**

**Recycle devices and batteries properly.**

**Get out quickly if there's a fire.**

**Educate others on safe practices.**



### Fire moves fast.

From the first warning signs of smoke or hissing noises, you may have less than one minute to escape a fire.



Learn more at [batteryfiresafety.org](https://batteryfiresafety.org)

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## Prescribed Burning and Pile Burning to Continue around Lake Tahoe

The Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team (TFFT) will continue prescribed fire operations after the holidays in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Conditions and weather permitting, California State Parks, Cal Fire, Nevada Division of Forestry, and the North Lake Tahoe and



Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection Districts will be burning piles in several locations around Lake Tahoe to remove hazardous vegetation and restore forest health.

On the north and west shores, pile burning will occur as conditions permit at Carnelian Canyon, Dollar Creek, Burton Creek State Park, and at Sugar Pine Point State Park. A map with project

details is available for viewing at [Tahoe Living With Fire](#).

*If you'd like to Adopt a Hydrant in your neighborhood to keep clear of snow to ensure our firefighters have access, please [sign up today!](#)*

