

ROMEOVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS

Dryer safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPCS) estimates that 15,500 fires associated with dryer fires each year. These fires account for more than \$84.4 million in property damage annually. Clothes dryers can be a fire hazard if proper care and precautions are not taken. Follow these safety tips to prevent a fire in your home dryer:

- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Check to make sure nests of small animals or insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- Turn the dryer **OFF** if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- Always use the appropriate electrical outlet for dryers and all major appliances.
- **DON'T** forget to read the manufacturer warnings in the user manual and on the inside of the dryer door.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected by a professional annually to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.