Shut the Door on House Fire Fatalities
Cathryn Nelson, Building Official
I recently read an article published by the International Code Council, which is the group who writes the commercial and residential code adopted by the State of Utah, as well as every other state in the nation and many countries. The article stated in part, “Statistics show the number of structural fires continue to drop nationwide and public injury and fatalities are down. What does this mean? It appears the codes are accomplishing their desired goal of ensuring public safety. Building and fire code officials, public fire educators, and manufacturers are doing their jobs.”
One challenge it pointed out is that newer homes typically have much more open floor plans, which along with more combustible furniture makes a house fire move quicker. To help minimize risk, it suggested the simple act of closing bedroom doors during the night. This will give occupants a time advantage of five to ten minutes to escape both fire and smoke.
A few years ago I saw this simple suggestion in action. A very good friend of mine had a house fire that completely engulfed every room in their house—except the room where his son slept. The door to his room was shut and there wasn’t even smoke damage.
“Sleeping with bedroom doors closed must be a part of a family’s home fire escape plan. It is a simple, effective, proven strategy. Everyone can practice it, and there is nothing to buy or install to place the door in a closed position.”
Then at the very end of the article, this statement caught my attention. “It takes a special person to be a code official. The profession requires complete integrity, patience, intellect, attention to detail, diplomacy, technical competence, tact and a good amount of naivete. Everyone is owed from the fabric of this job. Every job in the building department is stressful and there is constant pressure to meet deadlines, but great emphasis is placed on providing professional, friendly service. We continually evaluate our service to make sure we are providing the very best.”
Letting your dog run or walk off leash is great fun for them but it could get you into trouble. There are no designated off-leash dog parks in Herriman. Dog owners must keep their dogs on-leash at all times at any of the parks, trails, or canyons in Herriman. If you run off-leash a dog owner could get a ticket. You may be thinking “Yes, it’s illegal but my dog hates being on leash.” Keeping your dog on-leash means they’re safe from harm: speeding cars, chasing after other dogs and getting into fights, or accidentally jumping up on someone who does NOT like dogs. Dog owners are liable if their dog is off-leash and causes harm to another dog or human.

So where can you take your dog and let them romp off-leash to their heart’s content? Any of these off-leash dog areas:

- Cottonwood Park 300 N 1645 W, SLCC
- Freedom Trail/Memory Grove 375 N Canyon Rd, SLCC
- Herriman Franks Park 700 W 1300 S, SLCC
- Jordan Park 900 W 1000 S, SLCC
- WJ Off Leash Dog Park 5982 W New Bingham Hwy, WJ, Managed By: SLCo Parks and Recreation

US Forest Service Areas - Dogs are allowed on National Forest Land

- Lindsey Gardens Park 91th Ave and “M” Street, SLCC
- Parley’s Nature Trail 2750 S Heritage Way (2700 E), SLCC
- Pioneer Park 300 W 395 S, SLCC
- Sandy Dog Park 9980 S 300 E (South of Dewey Bluth Park), Sandy
- Millrace Park 1200 W 5400 S, Taylorsville, Managed By: Taylorsville City

Lawn & Garden Checklist

- At this time of year, your lawn and garden should be in peak shape:
  - Be sure to clean up any fallen leaves that have accumulated over the fall.
  - Do one final deep water of grass and trees.
  - Lower the deck on your mower to cut grass to 1” high.
  - Fall is a great time to prepare your yard for spring:
    - Lower the deck on your mower to cut grass to 1” high.
    - Remove annuals and any perennials that you don’t want to keep. Add them to your compost pile or till them into the soil. Trim those perennials that you do want to keep.
    - Fertilize your yard and mulch planting beds.
    - Do one final deep water of grass and trees.
    - Open sprinkler valves to drain and winterize your sprinkling system.
    - Till any remaining vegetable plants into soil.
    - Wrap trees and shrubs in burlap, layered plastic or snow fencing to protect them from the cold. This will also protect your investment from urban deer that move into your yard during the winter months.
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  - Plant bulbs for spring blooms.