

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone (208)334-4250
Fax (208)334-4398
Website: <http://doi.idaho.gov>

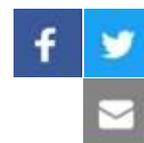
DEAN L. CAMERON
Director

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Contact: Jes Benson, 208-334-4312

jessica.benson@doi.idaho.gov



Cause of Fatal Emmett Fire Determined

The cause of a fire that took the life of Emmett resident Eric Brockbank has been determined. State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl said investigators from his office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) determined that careless use of smoking materials caused the fire that took Brockbank's life. Evidence indicates that Mr. Brockbank fell asleep in bed while smoking, only to be awakened by the fire. Because of his diminished mobility, Mr. Brockbank was unable to escape the fire and was killed.

"We are always saddened by the loss of any person from a fire," Said Sandahl. "Smoking is the third greatest cause of residential home deaths in America." If you do smoke, Sandahl suggests these safety tips to prevent a fire from occurring in your home:

Smoke outside- many items in your home can catch fire if they touch something hot like a cigarette or ashes

Put your cigarette out in an ashtray or metal bucket with sand

Use ashtrays with wide bases so they won't tip over and start a fire

Put cigarettes out all the way, every time

Don't walk away from lit cigarettes and other smoking materials

Put water on ashes and butts to make sure they are fully extinguished before putting them in the trash

Never smoke around medical oxygen- medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is nearby, even if the oxygen is turned off it can still catch fire

Never smoke in bed- mattresses and bedding can catch fire easily and it is possible to fall asleep with a lit cigarette

Sandahl also emphasizes having working smoke alarms in your home. One is not enough. Smoke alarms should be placed in bedrooms, hallways outside of bedrooms, living areas, and they must be installed on every floor of your home. A smoke alarm's sound can be your first indication of a fire, giving you and your family precious time to get out of a burning home alive.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit doi.idaho.gov.

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