

COOL YOUR ASHES!

Every year “cold ashes” result in house fires.

FACT: Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire for many days after the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

BE SAFE: Treat ALL ashes and coals as HOT ashes, even when you think they had time enough to cool. Take care to dispose of them wisely. Your house, deck or garage are unsafe locations for storing ashes while they cool and have been the site of many recent and devastating fires both locally and nationally. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside and at least 10 feet from your home or nearby buildings.

**Montgomery County Fire Officials
Recommend These Top 5 Safety Tips:**

DO NOT
remove hot
ashes from a fireplace
immediately. When
possible, allow ashes and
coals to cool in the area
where you had the fire for
several days. These devices
are designed to contain
their heat safely.

When
it's time to
dispose of the ashes,
transfer them to a metal
container and wet them down.
Only use an approved metal ash
bucket that has a tight fitting metal lid
to safely store cooled ashes. **NEVER**
dispose of ashes in a paper or plastic
bag, cardboard box, plastic container
or bucket because it can easily ignite
and **DO NOT** place any other
combustibles in the metal
container.



DO NOT
dispose of ashes
outside on a windy
day. The wind can whip
up what may have seemed
like cool embers, making
them fiery hot and sending
them airborne which
could ignite nearby
combustibles.

Store
the container
OUTSIDE, away
from your house and
other structures including
garages, decks, porches,
fences, wood piles or
other combustible
materials.

NEVER
use a vacuum
cleaner to pick
up ashes.

Call 311 for a FREE Home Safety Check



SCOTT E. GOLDSTEIN
Montgomery County Fire Chief
www.mcfrc.org/mcsafe

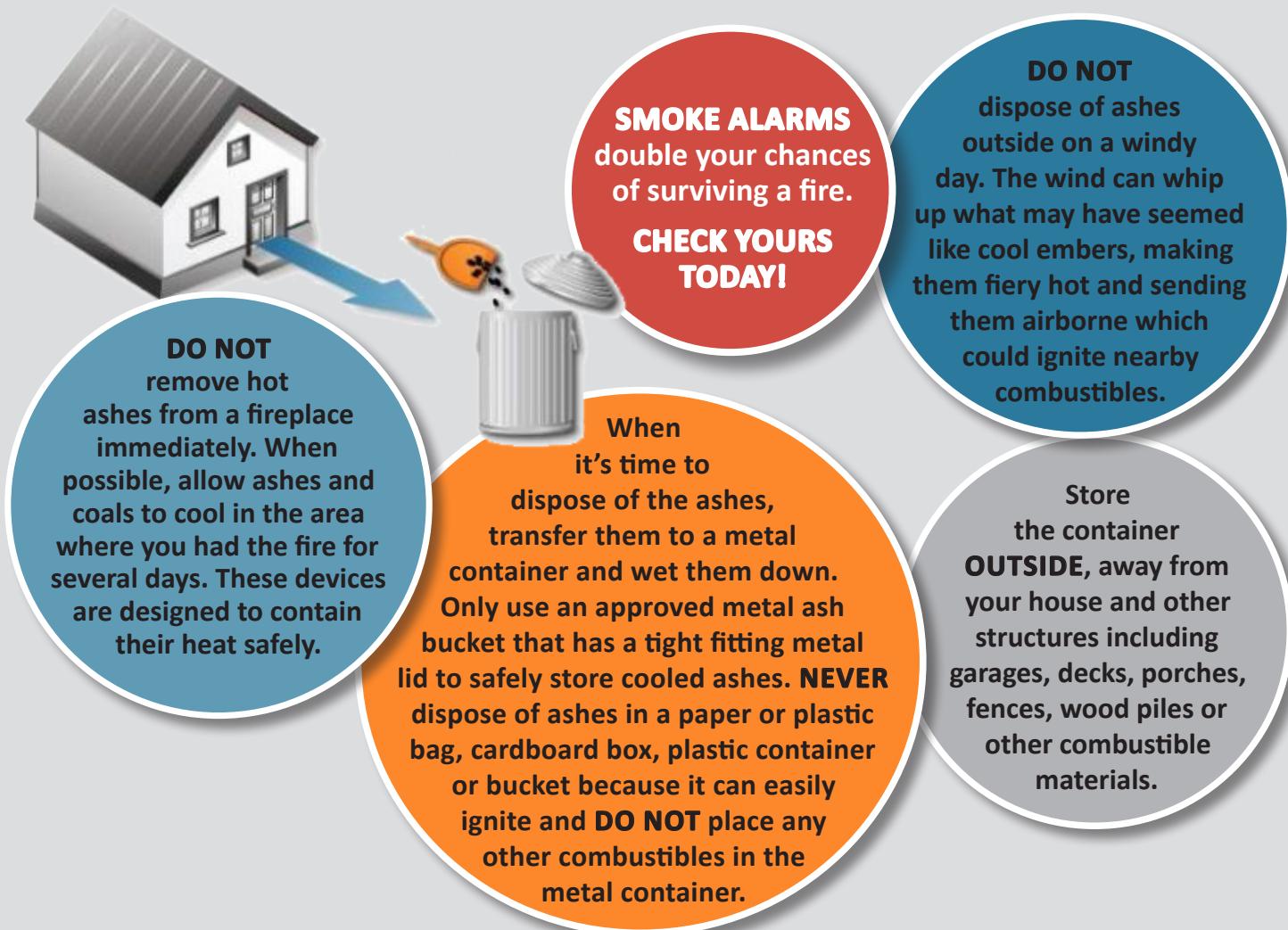
Every year “cold ashes” result in house fires.

Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Even after several days ashes can retain enough heat to reignite and start a fire. **NEVER** throw out ashes in a plastic garbage can, a cardboard box or paper grocery bag and never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up ashes.

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