

Longview Fibre land open for hunting, recreation

All Longview Fibre Company tree farms in Washington and Oregon were reopened to public recreational entry, including hunting, on October 7. "Motorized access will be al-

lowed in all tree farms, except for the Mid-Columbia Tree Farm, which will be walk-in hunting only," said Wade Boyd, vice president-timber. "Recent rainfall has reduced the forest-fire danger enough to enable us to reopen those gates that are normally open for the hunting seasons. We appreciate the public's cooperation through the past two months, when we were forced to close our timberlands because of the extreme fire threat."

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Fireplace and woodstove safety vitally important

The weather has turned colder and woodstoves and fireplaces are again being used. Fire marshalls recommend cleaning and inspecting chimneys each year. A professional chimney sweep has the special tools needed to clear away creosote, the sooty buildup which can ignite and cause a chimney fire.

Other precautions include disposing of ashes properly, in a covered metal container, and keeping the container outdoors, at least three feet away from anything flammable. Also, keep furniture, drapes and decorations away from the woodstove and use a fireplace screen.

Smoke alarms should be vacuumed and tested twice a year to be sure they are working properly, and have the batteries changed. Alarms over 10 years old should be replaced.

Many woodstoves and fireplace inserts are outdated and may not have been installed or maintained properly. These older stoves produce far more smoke and burn less efficiently than modern certified wood-

stoves, pellet stoves or non-woodburning systems like natural gas. To see if a woodstove is a certified model, check on the back of the stove for a certification sticker from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If there is no tag, it may be an uncertified, high-polluting stove.

Oregon law allows the use of woodstoves, uncertified or not. However, resale or reinstallation of an uncertified stove is prohibited. Homeowners who upgrade their woodstove may request the installer to recycle their old stove.

For information about chimney sweeping and a list of professional chimney sweeps, visit www.oca.com.

For more information on woodstoves and other fireplace products, call the Oregon Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association at 503-585-8254, or visit www.hpba.org.

For information on wood smoke pollution, contact the Oregon DEQ at 503-229-5359 or www.deq.state.or.us.



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