



## Fire Department

500 West Big Beaver Road

Troy, Michigan 48084

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### Potential Fireplace Chimney Hazard

This information is posted for the benefit of residents of Cypress Gardens, Cypress Gardens No. 2, Lansdowne, Lansdowne No. 2, Washington Square Estates, Windmill Pointe, Windmill Pointe No. 2, and Windmill Pointe North subdivisions who may have bought their home since 1996, or who may be selling their home; and for residents who may possess a Majestic brand, or similar type fireplace and chimney enclosure, to make them aware of a potential fire hazard involving certain metal double and triple wall fireplace chimneys and enclosures. Homeowners may not be aware of a potential fire hazard from using the fireplace and chimney.

In the winter of 1995, there were several house fires that were attributed to the Majestic brand fireplace with a metal double or triple wall chimney in a simulated brick exterior chimney enclosure. Investigations revealed that an accumulation of bird nesting material in the enclosure, cap, and outer walls of the chimney flue occluded the cooling design characteristics of the chimney thereby resulting in high heat concentrations that ignited nearby structural roof members causing extensive fire and smoke damage to the house.

To help reduce the potential of a fire occurring, the Troy Fire Department mounted an aggressive notification campaign and was successful in preventing any further house fires until April, 2001, when yet another fire occurred in Cypress Gardens. The homeowner was unaware of the potential fire hazard involving the chimney and had a fire in the fireplace when the fire ignited the roof of the home.

In an on-going effort to prevent future fires from occurring, the Troy Fire Department recommends residents who may have this type of fireplace and chimney, not use their fireplace until the chimney can be properly inspected and cleaned. This is more than a routine chimney cleaning. A qualified professional should inspect the cap, enclosure, and chimney flue for any debris accumulation or blockage and remove such material before the fireplace is used. Chimney Sweeps and repair contractors can be found in the in the phone book or on the Internet. Like any job, it is recommended that one obtains more than one quote prior to agreeing to any work and be assured that the work will address the concern.

Questions regarding this matter, or fire safety in general, may be directed to the Fire Prevention Division at 248-524-3419, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.