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The Municipality of Litchfield and the MRC Pontiac Fire Security would like to share fire prevention tips regarding wood heating appliances. Chimney fires are the number one cause of fires listed within the territory of the Pontiac MRC. This may be due to the long and cold winters and periodical thaws. Therefore, we suggest that you be vigilant with the following:

- **Have your chimney and fireplace installed by a professional.**
- **Use only dry wood. Green wood increase the creation of creosote.**
- **Burn small pieces of wood in small amounts. They will burn better and create less creosote.**
- **Store your wood outside, away from the house and cover it from the weather.**
- **Have your chimney and fire place serviced and cleaned by a professional at least once a year or every 5 cords ideally during fall because the combination of debris, the changes between temperatures and/or the humidity can block your chimney.**
- **Don't rely on products intended to clean your chimney. These products can only eliminate 60% of the creosote where as a qualified technician can remove up to 90%.**
- **Burn only wood. Do not add any other combustible such as processed wood, plastic, garbage or gas. The gases produced by those products are toxic and increase the creation of creosote.**
- **Always place the ashes in a metal container with a cover and take them outside away from any combustible materials, because they can stay warm for at least 72 hours.**

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to communicate with your local fire security service or with our fire prevention service located at the Pontiac MRC.