

Fall 2014



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## Fall is on the Way!



Hope you are all enjoying the cooler Fall weather! In this edition of Nevada News: the Affordable Care Act and how it could affect you and your caregivers, Open House and Ice Cream Social Events on the Way, Fall Fire Safety and Consumer Direct Advisory Council news.

### Affordable Care Act (ACA) News:

**The Affordable Care Act (ACA)** includes a mandate for Employers of more than 50 employees to offer health insurance to employees who work more than 30 hours per week.

Consumer Direct wants to be a good employer and give our employees the health insurance they need and deserve, but the reimbursement rate we get from Medicaid is very low and is not enough to pay for health care premiums.

If Medicaid doesn't raise the rates we are paid, businesses that provide in-home care to people with disabilities and the elderly will be forced to consider cutting caregiver wages or limiting the hours that caregivers can work in order to pay for the new insurance - *that makes no sense at all.*

### We need more time to work with Medicaid to raise our rates.

**HB 5098** is a proposed federal law that gives us another year to get things fixed so we can offer health insurance without cutting caregiver wages or hours.

You can help by contacting your representative in Congress and telling them you want them to pass **HB 5098**.

### Got Direct Deposit??



Direct Deposit is the fastest and safest way to get your pay. Paper checks can get lost, stolen, or delayed in the mail. Please contact your local office to request a Direct Deposit form **today!**



## Thank You!

63 Caregivers in Nevada were recently recognized for 1000 – 15,000 hours of care!

Congrats to all of our caregivers for the wonderful work you do to help people remain independent in their homes and community!



## Consumer's Corner



## Our National Consumer Advisory Council has been very busy!

Nevada representatives are Linda Mason and Joan Anglin. These consumers share their ideas and feedback with Consumer Direct and council members from several states in the Consumer Direct Family of Companies. They help with ideas to improve services and supports for self-directing consumers and their caregivers. They also recently helped launch our Caregiver Appreciation Program and are providing valuable assistance with finding ways to recruit and hire quality caregivers, make it easier to use the Web Portal, and much more!

*Thanks Linda and Joan! We appreciate all you do!*



## Annual Open House and Ice Cream Social Events!!



Please join us in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno offices on **October 30th from Noon - 2pm** for Fun and Games, Ice Cream, Cookies, and Apple Cider! 😊 Hawthorne, Tonopah, Caliente, Winnemucca, Eureka, and Ely events will be scheduled soon!!

## Welcome New Staff to Team Nevada!



**Victor Calvario**  
Program Coordinator  
Las Vegas



**Cimanique Neal**  
Program Coordinator  
Las Vegas



**Michele Segal**  
Support Coordinator  
Las Vegas



**Naomi Johnson**  
Support Coordinator  
Reno

# Fall Fire Safety Tips

As summer turns to fall, it's a good idea to refresh your memory on fall fire safety tips. Some safety tips are the same regardless of the time of year, but many safety concerns are seasonal, particularly those that involve keeping your home warm.

## TIME CHANGES MEAN BATTERY CHANGES

Get in the habit of changing the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every fall and spring when changing the clocks for Daylight Savings Time. It is also a good idea to make it standard procedure in your household to verify that all fire extinguishers are fully charged and in working order when you adjust the clocks each season.

## HOME HEATING TIPS

No matter what type of device you use to heat your home, making sure your heating devices and systems are in good working order is an important part of making your home safe. Many things can go wrong with heating equipment during the spring and summer months. Verify that everything you need to keep your home warm throughout fall and winter is in good working order before you experience the first cold snap of the season.

## CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM SAFETY TIPS

- Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor every year before using it.
- If you have a gas heater, make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.



## SPACE HEATER SAFETY TIPS

- Make sure that any space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space.
- Never place clothing or any other objects on a space heater to dry.
- Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery.
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters.

## FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS

- Get your chimney inspected each year to make sure that it is safe.
- Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney every fall.
- Repair any cracks in fireplaces.
- Use fireplace screens to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace.
- Do not ever use gasoline to start a fire in the fireplace!
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that combustible materials are not stored within three feet of your fireplace.
- For natural gas fireplaces, get all connections and lines inspected before use each season.

\*This safety bulletin provided by Love to Know Safety