As our community has gradually grown, the homes in the fire district have aged as well. Maintenance and upkeep are always a chore, but nonetheless a necessity if we want our families and our property to be as safe as possible.

One of the issues that has been recently identified by the fire district as a potential fire hazard in the home, are bathroom/exhaust fans. These types of fans are powered by electricity and can fail if they are not properly maintained. Bathroom fans are manufactured both with and without lights and over time the motor can overheat or seize and may ignite the lint that has built up over time. The amount of lint is directly related to the amount of use. It is also possible that when the motor overheats it may cause a fire with the combustibles that are in close proximity of the fan.
Many of these fans are not thermally protected. Thermal protection causes the motor to shut down when it gets too hot. Although this safety feature has been available since the late 1970's, it was not required until the 1990's.

To help reduce the potential fire hazard in your home, the fire district recommends the following:

- All bathroom fans should be cleaned on a regular basis; if the fan is making any unusual sounds, it should be inspected and/or replaced.
- If your fans are not accessible, or you are unsure on how to maintain them, please contact the fire district for assistance.
- If your fan(s) appear to have heat damage or discoloration, they should be replaced.
- Fans should only be used for brief periods of time, such as during a shower. They are not designed to run for extended periods of time; many people who forget to turn their fan(s) off have opted for a timer.

For more Fire District information please log onto our website at www.lwfd.org.

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