

## Auburn Fire Department

David N. O'Connell | Fire Inspector/Fire Investigator 550 Minot Avenue | Auburn, Maine 04210 doconnell@auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6633 ext. 6

Sarah L. Hulbert – Fire Prevention Specialist shulbert@auburnmaine.gov

## A Safety Message from the Fire Prevention Office of the Auburn Fire Department

Are you a smoker? Did you know that smoking-related fires are one of the leading causes of fire deaths, accounting for 14 percent of fire deaths in residential buildings? \*

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created a lot of challenges and anxiety for the citizens of our nation. Many family members are home, self-isolating and working remotely from their computers. If you are a smoker, here are some stay-at-home tips to help protect you and your loved ones.

## **Smoking Safety**

- If you smoke, please consider quitting.
- Use only fire-safe cigarettes.
- Smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms, dens
  or in bedrooms.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high, out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

## Put it out

- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray or metal container with sand (*not a plastic coffee container*). Place it away from anything that can burn.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants, landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are completely out. Dousing lit cigarettes in water or sand is the best way to ensure they are extinguished.



