

# HOT ASH SAFETY TIPS

Every year hundreds of fires are caused by improperly disposed of ashes. These ashes can be anything from cigarette butts to the ashes from a wood stove. Decks, trash cans and homes are all vulnerable to fires caused by improperly disposed of ashes.

## **Safe disposal of hot ashes from wood stoves, fire pits or BBQ's:**

- Place ashes in a metal container with a tight cover and place at least 3ft away from combustible decks, porches, woodpiles and out-buildings.
- Never put ashes of any kind into paper or plastic bags.
- Add water or ice to the bucket and allow to fully absorb to cool the ash faster.
- Ashes can keep hot for several days after disposal; ensure the ash is cold to the touch before disposing of them further.
- Improperly disposed of ashes is a leading cause of deck fires in the winter time.
- Local disposal companies do not want hot ashes dumped in their trash containers as this can lead to a fire in the garbage truck or landfill
- Do not dispose hot ash into combustible bags or containers

## **Safe disposal of cigarette butts and other smoking materials:**

- Improperly disposed of cigarette butts cause many fires each year. These start brush, decks and homes on fire on a regular basis but are very preventable.
- Dispose of smoking material into a non-combustible (metal or clay) container.
- Before disposing of the materials, ensure they are cool to the touch.
- Empty the cool smoking materials regularly to reduce the buildup of materials. The smoking materials themselves can become the combustibles the next cigarette butt ignites if not emptied regularly.