

20 November 2003

Article by:  
Fort Sill Fire Prevention Branch.  
***Clothes Dryer Causes Fire at Fort Sill***

On November 11<sup>th</sup> a clothes dryer caught fire causing minor damage to the utility room and totally destroying the dryer. It was during the drying cycle that caused the fire.

Cause of the fire was the occupant's failure to clean the lint from the dryer.

In order to prevent dryer fires, the appliance must be pulled away from the wall, unplugged it in order to avoid a shock, and remove the back. Once the back has been



removed, use a vacuum sweeper wand to remove all of the lint. This will include around the drum, electrical connection. Above all, remove the vent hose and vacuum and clean the entire length, checking for holes as you clean. This should be done at semi-annually. Lint, if allowed to accumulate, insulates what it is laying on causing the temperature to rise eventually catching on fire.

One good way you can detect a leak in the vent hose is if you see moisture on the inside of your windows or walls or drying the clothes takes longer or none at all. Should you see this occurring, immediately check the dryer vent hose and replace if required. Check your owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations. If you would like to speak to a Fire Inspector concerning this article please call 442-5911.

