



**DPS PR# 11-014**  
**March 8, 2011**

### **Alcohol and Unsafe use of Cooking Appliance Takes Another Life**

(STEBBINS, Alaska) – Another Alaskan has lost their life in a home fire. An early morning fire on March 3, 2011 in the village of Stebbins took the life of a male occupant of the home. A local village police officer saw smoke coming from the structure and responded to investigate. He was unable to enter the structure due to heavy smoke and flames. The body was found after the fire had been extinguished. After investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office, it was determined that the victim was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fire and that the fire had started in the area of the electric stove. It appeared that the victim had been either trying to cook something or trying to heat the room with the stove.

Alaskans need to remember that most fatal fires in Alaska are attributed to alcohol or drug abuse. Smoking, cooking or unsafe heating practices while under the influence of alcohol or drugs can be a deadly mix. By following some basic fire safety tips and not overindulging in the use of alcohol or drugs, Alaskans can prevent these tragic home fires:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Clean the stove on a regular basis.
- Keep combustibles away from cooking area.
- Do not use cooking appliances to heat your home
- If you must leave the kitchen, turn off the stove.
- Keep children and pets away from cooking.
- Don't overload electrical outlets
- Do not overheat grease and oils.
- If you must smoke, smoke outside.
- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources.

Alaska State Fire Marshal David Tyler adds, "Fire safe behavior can keep a fire from starting. Working smoke alarms, planning and practicing your fire escape plan and adding residential fire suppression sprinklers can ensure your family's safety from a fire."

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