

## Vindomora Country Lodges - Wood Stove Safety

<b>Hazards Identified</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burns to hands, arms, chest and face</li> <li>▪ Carbon Monoxide Poisoning</li> <li>▪ Chimney Fire</li> <li>▪ Scorching or Burning Floors and nearby Objects, HSW clothing</li> <li>▪ Lodge Fire</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard-Specific Personal Protective Equipment for Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supportive Footwear with enclosed toes, heels and non-slip soles</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard-Specific Training for Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None Identified – This notice to be present in the Visitors Information Pack and on the website.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Safe Practices and Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fire Extinguishers in each lodge and externally</li> <li>▪ Fire Safety</li> <li>▪ Fire Safety Evacuation policy printed in each Visitor Information Pack and on the website</li> </ul>

### Safe Practice

- A stable fire is always made up of at least three pieces of wood that are short enough to fit easily into the stove's firebox.
- A small hot fire is the most efficient way to burn wood. Add small amounts of wood at a time to the stove and operate the draft controls in at least a half-open position.
- Add only dry wood to the stove. **Never** burn wet or green wood. Plastic, cardboard, painted or stained wood, pressure-treated wood, particleboard or plywood, ocean driftwood (because of its salt content), or glossy magazines. This type of product burns extremely hot and can crack masonry and warp metal and release toxic chemicals.
- To know if the wood is dry, look for pieces that are darker at the ends and usually tends to be cracked at the cut ends. Dry wood also weighs much less than freshly cut wood.
- In milder weather, build small, hot fires to take the chill off. Do not fill up the firebox and then turn the air control down as this will produce a smoldering fire.

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- Be sensitive to the wood stove operating characteristics. Regulating the amount of wood and the amount of air provided to the stove is needed to achieve comfort levels in the lodge.
- Each new load of wood should be burned hot until the pieces heat up and a layer of charcoal forms on them.
- Never let a fire smolder. When a wood fire is starved for air and the exhaust temperature is not sufficient to produce a strong updraft in the chimney, the fire begins to smolder and spills smoke into the room when the stove door is opened. It is important to ensure that sufficient air is coming into the fire through air inlets of the stove in order to maintain the flame.
- You should not see dense smoke coming from chimney except when a fire is first lit or for a few minutes after you add wood.
- If smoke escapes while stoking the fire, open a window for smoke to escape as this smoke contains carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.
- The glass doors on modern wood stoves and fireplaces are designed to stay clear; dark stains are a sign of smoldering caused by slow burning or poor fuel.
- When full, please remove the ashes from the firebox and place in the outside bin. Please ensure these ashes are not hot or a fire will result!
- Gasoline, kerosene, charcoal or liquid starters are dangerous and not suitable for starting a fire in a wood stove. Only use the firelighters provided or available at the Reception.
- Avoid using artificial logs as many wax and sawdust logs are not for use in wood stoves.
- Children **MUST** be supervised **AT ALL TIMES** when wood stoves are in use.
- Tell children about the high surface temperatures and keep them away from the stove so they avoid getting burned or igniting their clothes.
- Do not place clothing or other flammable material on or near the stove.
- Keep combustible materials away from the stove to avoid the possibility of igniting such materials. (E.g. clothing, furniture, newspapers, books)
- Fire extinguishers are located in each lodge.
- Each lodge has a fitted smoke detector, heat detector and carbon monoxide detector which are tested every Change Over day.
- Smoke from wood that is not burned completely contains a number of chemicals, including

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Carbon Monoxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) which is odorless, colourless and can be deadly.

- A chimney fire occurs when buildup of creosote in the chimney is ignited and burns quickly and hot. A chimney fire is not difficult to detect. It involves flames and sparks shooting out the top of the chimney, a roaring sound similar to a jet engine, the stovepipe glowing red hot and vibration or throbbing of the stovepipe. It generally has a short duration but is intensely hot and has the potential to do serious damage to the chimney and, in some cases, extreme damage to the lodge.
- In the event of a fire, dial 999 and follow the Fire Evacuation procedures.
- If the wood stove fire becomes extinguished, please do not return to your lodge until permission has been given by the Manager or the Fire Service.
- Paper and kiln-dried wood should be used only for starting fires. They burn too hot and too quickly to be of any heating value.

**Notes:**

This document was reviewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 by Craig Johnson, Manager

