



# AFTER THE FIRE

## Tips to Prevent Fires

Bureau of Fire Prevention ~ 40 Summit Drive  
843-682-5140



On November 27, 2014 at 1:35pm, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue was dispatched to a structure fire at a hotel with reports of smoke coming from the first floor laundry room.

Upon arrival, crews saw moderate smoke in the laundry room. They began to pull ceiling tiles above the dryer and found sooted lint and dust throughout most of the ceiling and ventwork..

There were no injuries.

A fire will change your life in ways that you can not even begin to imagine. Below are some tips to help you prevent this from happening at your home. Fire safety starts with you so—PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY EVERY-DAY!!

Please contact the Fire & Life Safety Educator at 843-682-5141 with any questions.

three engines, one medic unit, the truck company and multiple staff personnel responded to the scene.



## DRYER SAFETY

### *How does a dryer work?*

A clothes dryer works by forcing hot air through a turning drum. Wet clothes are placed in the drum and then dried by moving hot air.

Lint, consisting of small fibers from the clothes is created from the clothes as they tumble.

While much of the lint is trapped in the filter, some is carried along through the vent system.

### *Do your part!*

Have your clothes dryer installed by qualified personnel.

Clean the filter before and after each cycle. Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter every 6 months with a nylon brush.

The interior of the dryer and venting system should be serviced and cleaned periodically.

Check occasionally to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.

Read manufacturers instructions and warnings and care instructions for your dryer.

Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.

Do not dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic like bathroom rugs or tennis shoes.

**Do not leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed!**