

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solid Waste Authority Reminds Residents of the Hazards of Hot Ash Disposal

With snow and cold weather arriving in the Mohawk Valley, increased usage of fireplaces and wood stoves is occurring. The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority wants to remind residents of the hazards that arise from **hot ash** disposal.

Improper disposal of hot ashes can cause fires and problems for fire departments. Placing hot ashes in dumpsters, garbage cans and/or recycling bins is a safety hazard for residents, solid waste collectors and transfer stations.

“Coals and ashes can remain hot enough to reignite for many days after you think the fire is out,” stated Authority Recycling Coordinator Jamie Tuttle. “The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, and how much unburned fuel remains.”

Follow these safety measures:

- Dispose of ashes in a metal container. Douse the ashes with water and place the closed container outside of your home away from combustible materials. **Leave the ashes in the container for several days before disposing of them.**
- **DO NOT** assume that the ashes are cold. Hot ashes **CANNOT** be placed in trash or recycling containers.
- Once you are **positive** that your ashes are cold, you may then place them in a plastic bag, tie securely, and dispose of in your curbside trash can.
- Teach family members about the dangers associated with hot ash disposal.

For reuse ideas for ash removed from a wood stove or for more information on solid waste and recycling, please visit www.ohswa.org or call the Authority’s Main Office at 733-1224.

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