

Rancho San Joaquin

Homeowners Should Regularly Inspect and Clean Their Chimney and Fireplace

Note that chimney and fireplace maintenance and cleaning are the homeowner's responsibility, and not the responsibility of the HOA.

In early 2023, a fire started in a chimney and spread through a townhome in Turtle Rock Glen, a condominium community similar in size and age to our Rancho San Joaquin HOA. See the OC Fire Authority Twitter post below.

Most likely, the fire was caused by the chimney and fireplace not being regularly inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney technician.

A fire can easily start in the fireplace or chimney if there is **creosote build-up, flue blockages, and other issues that increase the risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.**



Image of Orange County Fire Authority Twitter post of Turtle Rock chimney fire

Inspect & Clean Your Chimney & Fireplace Annually To Prevent a Fire or CO Poisoning

If you have not used your fireplace – even a gas fireplace – in more than a year (or if you rarely use your fireplace), **before using your fireplace** have a chimney technician inspect and clean your chimney and fireplace, as recommended by fire prevention experts.

A chimney technician will inspect your fireplace and chimney for soundness, freedom from deposits, and correct clearances. Also, the technician will evaluate the chimney and venting system to determine if it's fit for use.

Even if you rarely use your fireplace, animals may build nests in the flue or there may be other deterioration that could make the chimney unsafe when using your fireplace.

[Read “What Is a Chimney Inspection & Why Do You Need to Have One Every Year?” on the Chimney Safety Institute website >>](#)