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NEWS RELEASE

Brush up on safety knowledge with free community classes

Durango, CO: Durango Fire Protection District and Durango Parks and Recreation are partnering to offer free classes for community members interested in learning about safe practices for outdoor adventures or at home.

"We look at community data from medical and fire calls we respond to," said Tosh Black, community educator, firefighter and EMT with the district. "We use that information to come up with a plan to better educate our citizens on what they can do to protect themselves and others from potentially life-threatening situations."

Classes will be 5 to 6:30 p.m. on select Wednesdays at the Durango Community Recreation Center:

- **April 14: Dangerous Venomous Critters**
Learn about different types of rattlesnakes found in the Durango area and what to do if you or someone with you is bitten. The class will also include information on how to protect yourself from bears and mountain lions.
- **May 12: Basic First Aid**
Learn about bleeding control, shock and fracture stabilization, and what to do if someone experiences a seizure.
- **June 16: Smoking & Vaping: The Real Deal**
This class is for individuals of all ages who smoke or vape. It will provide detailed information on how smoking and vaping affect the body from the cellular level to brain nerve responses as well as disease/illness that can result from use.

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- **July 14: House Fires: The Risks & Causes**

Learn about causes of housefires and how to prevent tragedy from happening in your home.

- **August 11: Fire Extinguishers: How and When to Use Them**

This class is for individuals of all ages who want more information about how to use fire extinguishers. Participants will also learn about types of fires that can and cannot be put out with fire extinguishers.

Classes are limited to 20 participants to allow for social distancing. Masks will be required during classes, and participants may be asked to assist with disinfection practices.

To sign up, contact Tosh Black with Durango Fire Protection District at tosh.black@durangofire.org or (970) 382-6014. Questions can also be directed to John Robinette with Durango Parks and Recreation at John.Robinette@DurangoGov.org or (970) 375-7323.

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