Wood heating fires — fewer but still threat

Fires associated with wood heating have declined somewhat in recent years, bit still represent a secous threat, lo, life and property in
Michigan.

Michigan from wood
stoves, fireplaces and chinmeys

Wood heating lires increased
when the Michigan State Police Fire

Marshal Division reported 6,179 incidents. The totals dropped to 5,433 in 1994 and 4,159 last year, however. A spokesman for Mitchigan Association of Insurance Companies said the decreasing incidence may reflect greater public awareness about the dangers inherent with wood heating.

"A number of public and private organizations have devoted a lot of resources to public education on this problem," said Terry Buckles, insurancee association president.

"We're hopeful the trend will continue."

Buckles said the nature of wood heating accidents has changed dras-

Buckles said the nature of wood heating accidents has changed dras-tically. In the late 1970s, who homeowers were just rediscovering wood as an energy source, improper system Installation was a leading cause of these fire, and a leading cause of these fire, or percent of wood stove, Irreplace and chinney blazes originated in this manner. ington Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment, call Jim Lolli, 464-0880.

IMPROPER OPERATION NOW accounts for most wood heating ac-cidents. "In 1995, almost one-half of the fires occurred because the appli-

ance or system was used in an unsafe manner." Buckles said.
Creosote build-up is responsible for most chinney fires. Dark in color and with an unpleasant ordor, creosote is a byproduct of wood burning that coals the interior of pipes and chinneys. If heavy deposits become very hot, they burst into flame. Use of unseasoned wood produces more creosote.

MAIC recommends four basic guidelines for wood burning safety: buy only equipment approved by a recognized testing laboratory; make certain the system is installed accreding to authorized standards; learn and follow proper rules for op-

eration/maintenance; and regularly inspect chimneys and stovepipes for deliciencies and cresoste build-up.
Specific information on installation, operation and maintenance of wood heat appliances is available from many sources, Buckles concluded, These include Insurance agents/companies, equipment manufacturers and distributors, and various state and federal agreents

facturers and distributors, and various state and federal agencies.
MAIC is a non-profit public affairs organization representing 45 proper-ty/casualty insurers, most of which are headquatered in Michigao. The association sponsors a number of consumer education and information programs.

Blood donation may save a life

The last Thursday in November is a month traditionally set aside to give thanks for family blessings, not blessing most have is good faith. But many are not so fortunate. They are the victims of Teukernia, cancer, aplastic anemia, accidents or a host of other ills.

These people can often be helped through the use of blood and blood components.

Blood can be donated by anyone in good general health who weighs a

minimum of 110 pounds and is between 17 and 70 years old.
Appointments can be made to
donate blood at one of the community blood drives listed below.

• Sunday, Nov. 9, Nardin Park
Methodist Church, 29887 11 Mille,
Parmington Hills, from 8 a.m. to 2
p.m. For an appointment, call Cory
Lupinacel, 471-4282 or 963-0000,
Ext. 310.

Monday, Nov. 10, Little Caesar Enterprises, 24152 Haggerty, Farm-

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5029 Grand River (West of Brighton)
10 THE HEARTH-SLOE PLAZA
(213) 227-1314
2: Mon. E Fr. 9-8, Tues. There. 9-8, Sal. 1 • Friday, Nov. 28, Botsford General Hospital, 23050 Grand River, Farmington Hills, from noon to 6 p.m. For an appointment, call Beverly Weiss, 471-8651. ANNIVERSARY SALE % ALL FALL HANDBAGS 3 DAYS ONLY . Nov. 7, 8, 10

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