

THE CELL NEWS

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Winter safety tips for your home

Every year there are numerous reported cases of fire occurring in homes causing millions of dollars of property damage and at times costing people their lives. Most deaths occur from smoke and toxic fume inhalation. Sadly, most household fires are accidental and preventable. The occurrence of household fires increases during the winter months, due to increased usage of heating appliances. Always be vigilant around your home, especially during the winter season.

When heating your home:

- ❑ Never leave heaters turned on and unattended in bedrooms.
- ❑ Heaters should be checked once a year to make sure they are in good working order. Replace worn out electrical cords and plugs immediately.
- ❑ Always check your heater, before lighting it to make sure it is clean.
- ❑ Never leave unmonitored heaters or air-conditioners turned on overnight, especially before going to sleep because blankets may fall onto the heater and catch fire.
- ❑ Heaters should always be used in the presence of adults or a responsible person.
- ❑ Placement of the heater should be centralized within the room, away from any combustibles.
- ❑ Do not dry clothes using a heater. The practice is a potential fire hazard.

Home Fire Escape Plan

Having a Home fire escape plan is a conscious decision meant to help during emergency situations. Here are some steps you can follow in coming up with your own plan:

- ❑ Have two ways out of every room, therefore security

enhancements like burglar bars should provide for safe passage from inside the room should the need arise.

- ❑ Decide where your safe meeting place is (outside your home)
- ❑ Provide alternatives for anyone with a disability
- ❑ Practice your plan with your family at least twice a year. - **WiseBee**



Steps to follow in the event of a fire

- ❑ Assist or alert any people in danger, only if it is safe to do so.
- ❑ Use sand or a dry chemical powder fire extinguisher to put out flames from paraffin heaters
- ❑ Gas heaters: turn off the valve and use a damp cloth to put out the flames from.
- ❑ Go to your safe meeting place.
- ❑ Call emergency services on 999 and wait for fire fighters to arrive.
- ❑ Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances.



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Ensure your property is always insured at the current market value. Under-insurance is a common occurrence when inflation is going up.

Sign up for **Honeygold Homesure** by calling our 24-hour contact centre on **08677 200 200** today or contacting your Broker. Honeygold Homesure is also available countrywide at all Zimpost Offices, ZB Bank, Women's Bank, NMB and Empower Bank branches.

Tobacco Seedbed : The Firm Foundation

A good tobacco crop depends on an ample supply of well-established and disease-free seedlings available early in the planting season. As growers, we should aspire to get as close as possible to 100% crop establishment after the transplanting exercise and this is achievable if good agronomic and crop protection practices are followed from the seed stage.

A late-grown or rain fed tobacco crop nearly always gives low returns come selling season. This makes the timing of planting even more important for better returns. In Zimbabwe, tobacco is grown under irrigation usually from September planting. Generally, the earlier the planting date, the higher the yields. It can also be grown as dry land/ rainfed crop from October to December, but the yields and quality are generally low.



To have the seed ready for transplanting by September, the seedbed must be established early enough! The recommended seedbed planting in Zimbabwe is 1 June. Going in earlier than that attracts a fine. For farmers in extremely cold

areas like Marondera to ensure timeous germination of seedlings for September planting, it is important to ensure that seedlings are not exposed to moist conditions with extremely low temperatures as it might result in decay of seeds. Seed decay occurs when seed is planted without sufficient moisture for germination or without sufficient heat to facilitate the germination process.



AgriBee tip

Farmers can use a simple plastic heat trapping method. Plastic retains the heat of the day better at night because it is relatively thick and impermeable. Double up the layers to retain the day's heat longer into the night and offer extra warming potential. The heat must be monitored during the night so that it doesn't boil the seeds. - **AgriBee**



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Local Buzz Catch-up!

The new regulations allowing half the duty on car imports to be paid in Zimbabwe dollars have now been formally gazette in Statutory Instrument 72A of 2022 by Finance and Economic Development Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube. The Customs and Excise (Designation of foreign currency dutiable goods), (Amendment), Notice, 2022, fixes the prevailing weekly average foreign currency exchange rate at the auctions as the exchange rate to be used. Before the switch, all duty had to be paid in foreign currency as a vehicle was bought in foreign currency outside the country prior to import. (The Herald, 21 April 2022)

Local Electric Car Manufacturer EVCA – Electric Vehicle Centre Africa also known as BYD Zimbabwe has partnered with ZUVA Petroleum for the development and implementation of the first-ever Electric Vehicle charging network available for public use in Zimbabwe. The project will start with a prototype charger that is to be installed in Harare at ZUVA Borrowdale and subsequently, electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at ZUVA service stations within cities around the country and along major highways. (techzim.co.zw, 05 May 2022)

All used vehicles arriving in Zimbabwe will require an EAA certificate of conformity (COC) to comply with import regulations on arrival at the Zimbabwe border (unless

shipping documentation verifies the vehicle was shipped prior to the inspection commencement date of 1st of June 2022. Pre-shipment inspections will commence in Japan, United Kingdom, Singapore, South Africa and United Arab Emirates from the 1st of June 2022. (The Zimbabwe Mail, 22 May 2022)



What's in the buzz?

The reason bees are so noisy is because they beat their wings 11,400 times in one minute!