

HEATING SAFETY

Stop A Fire Before It Starts

Over 4,000 Americans die and another 18,000 are injured in home fires each year. You can protect your family by establishing safe heating practices in your home.



Heating Equipment:

- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected every year and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar build-up is a common cause of chimney fires.
- Only burn dry wood in your fireplace or wood stove. Never burn trash or other items.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed away from combustible surfaces, have good floor supports and have proper ventilation so smoke can exit the home safely.
- Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline to start a fire or to keep a fire going.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to stop sparks from setting nearby carpets or furniture on fire.
- Dispose of hot ashes in a METAL container and place the containers AWAY from your home.
- Make sure all portable space heaters are equipped with an emergency shut off in case they tip over.
- Space heaters and ALL heating equipment must have a minimum of 3 feet of space around them to prevent combustibles from getting too hot from the heat and starting a fire.
- Portable and wall mounted space heaters must be turned off before going to bed or leaving your home even if they have a thermostat.
- Older recessed wall mounted electric heaters should be treated as a working heater even if they haven't been used in years. An accident could occur and cause the heater to come on which could catch nearby combustibles on fire if stored too closely.
- Never plug a portable electric space heater into an extension cord. The amount of heat produced through the electrical current from powering a space heater can overload and short out the cord and result in a fire.