



Home heating safety

Protect your family by being aware of home heating hazards. Here are some important reminders to keep your family safe all winter long.

Fireplaces

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional before using it. Build-up in the chimney, called creosote, can cause a fire.
- Never burn flammable liquids, cardboard or trash in your fireplace. These items can cause intense flames, which can start a chimney fire, send sparks into the room or cause toxic smoke.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks and embers from coming into the room.

Portable space heaters

- Place space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that could catch fire, and never use a space heater to dry mittens or clothing.
- Small children and pets should not be left alone with heaters.
- Make sure the heater has an auto shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Plug space heaters directly into outlets rather than into an extension cord or power strip.

Overall prevention

- Put fires out and turn heaters off before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Never use the stove or oven to heat your home.
- Keep candles, matches, and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Install at least one smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home, including near all sleeping areas.
- Keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen, laundry room, and garage, and inspect them regularly.

Fires caused by heating are the second leading cause of fire in the home. More home fires occur in winter months than any other time of year.

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