



Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. This is a safety hazard and also a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- When using a personal heater do not place the heater too close to any other objects (within 36 inches). Do not cover the heater and remember to turn it off when leaving the house or when not in use.
- Make sure that all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Be sure that your wood stove or fireplace is installed correctly. There should be a 36 inch clearance from combustible surfaces for woodstoves. The floor support and protection needs to be correct as well.
- The fire in your fireplace should be out before you go to sleep. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. Closing the damper will allow the fire to heat up again and force carbon monoxide into the house.
- If you use synthetic logs follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart or use more than one at a time. Synthetic logs often burn unevenly, and release higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Make sure your kerosene heater is in good working condition. Inspect all the parts of the heater and be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Make sure your room is properly ventilated because burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use only the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. NEVER fill the heater while it is operating or hot. Avoid overfilling the heater. DO NOT use cold fuel because it may expand as the tank warms up.
- When refueling a heater it should be done outside the home (outdoors).
- Make sure to always have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and be sure to check it monthly.

Information from: Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Fire Administration; website <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/1-97.pdf>

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