



# Winter Safety



## Space Heaters:

- Always select heating equipment tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company
- If you use an electric heater, do not overload the circuit. Never use a electric heater with a frayed or damaged cord
- Avoid using space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water
- Never use a space heater to dry clothing or other combustibles
- Keep combustibles and flammable materials at least three feet from space heaters
- Turn off space heaters when you go to bed or leave the room where they are being used
- Never leave unsupervised children or pets in a room where a space heater is in use. Even the slightest contact with a heating coil or element can cause a severe burn
- Never place a space heater on furniture or other appliances. Space heaters should always be on the floor
- Look for devices that have an automatic shut-off feature and heating element guards placed on the floor

## Fireplaces:

- Have a chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for a long time
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire in a fireplace
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping and to prevent unwanted material from going into the fireplace
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package
- Be sure the fire in your fireplace is out before you go to sleep. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace/ a closed damper can help rekindle the fire, possibly forcing carbon monoxide into your home
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near your home. Place hot ashes in a metal container outside, away from your home

## Furnace Heating:

- Have your furnace inspected by a professional to make sure it is in good working order
- Make sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working order
- Check the flue pipes and pipe seams to ensure they are supported and free of cracks or holes. Soot along or around seams may indicate a leak
- Change furnace filters on a regular basis
- Keep trash and/or other combustibles away from heating systems

## General Fire Safety:

- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. It is a safety hazard and can be a source of potentially toxic fumes
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide

*Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!*

