

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

HOME HEATING SAFETY



As the temperature drops, homes need heating. Keep your home and family fire-safe during the cold winter months with good home-heating practices.

BEFORE YOU HEAT

Maintain heating equipment. Make sure wood stoves and fireplaces are in good working order. Have chimneys inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified professional.

Inspect portable space heaters. Check cords and plugs for cracks, frays, and loose connections. Replace damaged cords before using the heater. Plug portable heaters directly into the wall outlet and only one per outlet. Never use an extension cord or power bar.

Plan your escape. Fire spreads fast. Prepare your family to get out quickly and safely by creating a home fire escape plan. Practice it often.

Protect children and pets. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from heating equipment to protect them from potential burn injuries.

AFTER YOU HEAT

Look before you leave. Turn off space heaters before leaving the room. Make sure fireplace fires are extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed.

Clear the ashes. Allow ashes in fireplaces and wood stoves to cool before putting them in a covered metal container. Store the container at least 10 feet from your home.

WHILE YOU HEAT

Fuel it right. Start fireplace and woodstove fires with newspaper and kindling. Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline or barbecue lighter fluid. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood to minimize creosote build-up.

Pace the burn. Burning too much wood at once can create tar and creosote build-up in chimneys and stove pipes creating a fire hazard.

Screen for safety. Use a sturdy metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers and sparks from escaping. Keep woodstove doors closed unless loading or stoking the fire.

Place heaters properly. Place space heaters on a flat surface in non-traffic areas. Keep them at least 3 feet from materials that can burn such as curtains, furniture, and blankets. Never leave them unattended.

INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are essential fire safety tools to have in your home. When properly installed and maintained, they can help save lives by providing an early warning for anyone in the home.

Smoke alarms alert you to deadly smoke and CO detectors sense carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas from fuel-burning appliances like fireplaces and woodstoves.

Protect your family by installing these in your home today. If the alarm sounds get out of the house immediately and call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.

 fness.bc.ca  fireservices@fness.bc.ca  604-669-7305