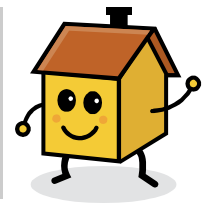


Is your home **WINTER FIRE SAFE?**



December, January, and February are the leading months for US home fires and home fire deaths. On average, more than one-third of home fire deaths in the US occur during the winter months. The tips in this issue of "Safety Lines" will help you make your home WINTER FIRE SAFE!

Dryer Fires

Don't let it happen to you!

Take these precautions to prevent a dryer fire in your home:

- Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.
- Check outside while the dryer is running to make sure air is escaping. If not, it may be blocked.
- Clean behind the dryer where lint can build up.
- Replace plastic or foil accordion-type duct material with a rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct which provides maximum airflow and reduces the chances of kinking or crushing and trapping lint.
- Take special care when drying clothes that have been soiled with volatile chemicals. Hang to dry, or use the coolest drying cycle and remove immediately when dry!

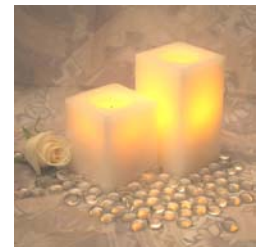


Candle Safety

On average, a candle fire is reported in US homes every 30 minutes!

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when using candles in your home:

- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't easily tip over.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Always blow out candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is being used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready during a power outage. Never use candles.
- Consider using the safest alternative, the "flameless candle".



Space Heaters

Heating equipment, especially portable and space heaters, require careful use and proper maintenance. Follow these tips to prevent fire and burn-related injuries over the winter months:

- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that could burn—including furniture, curtains, people, and pets.
- There should always be an adult in the room when a space heater is on. Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when a space heater is in use.
- Keep space heaters clean and well maintained.

Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, tasteless, and odorless gas that can kill a person in minutes if it goes undetected. Fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal produces CO when burning. Hundreds of people die each year from malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

What are the symptoms of CO Poisoning?

Symptoms of CO poisoning include, but are not limited to, severe headaches, dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, or shortness of breath.

Do I need a carbon monoxide detector in my house?

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, and having carbon monoxide detectors is crucial, especially in homes that have fossil-fuel burning heaters or appliances, fireplaces, or an attached garage.

Where should I install the detectors?

At the very least, you should have one near the sleeping area of your home. Additional detectors on every level and in every bedroom provide even more protection. You should remember *not* to install carbon monoxide detectors directly above or beside fuel-burning appliances, as appliances may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide upon start-up. A detector should not be placed within fifteen feet of heating or cooking appliances or in or near very humid areas such as bathrooms.

What do I do if my CO detector's alarm sounds or if I suspect that my family is suffering from Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

Get the victim(s) into fresh air immediately. If you can not get the people out of the house, then open all windows and doors. Any combustion appliances should be turned off. Take those who were subjected to carbon monoxide to a hospital emergency room as quickly as possible. A simple blood test will be able to determine if carbon monoxide poisoning has occurred.



Smoking

Every year, 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and smoking materials. One-in-four people killed in home fires is *not* the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. More than one third were children of the smokers. Twenty five percent were neighbors or friends of the smokers.



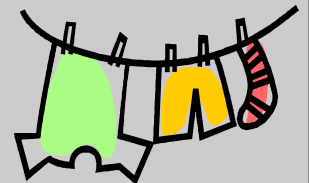
If you smoke:

- Smoke outside.
- Use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Make sure that your cigarette is put out, all the way, every time.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- Never smoke in bed, or while under the influence of medication that could make you drowsy.

When your kids come back inside from playing in the snow, what do you do with their cold, wet clothes?

Have you ever hung them near, or on, a heat source to dry them out? This is extremely dangerous!

Always keep wet clothing at least three feet from radiators, heaters, or fireplaces!



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