

With the winter months comes a whole set of fire and burn hazards, including things related to snow, fire places, other sources of home heating and candles.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ARE THE LEADING MONTHS FOR U.S. HOME FIRES AND HOME FIRE DEATHS? KEEP READING FOR USEFUL TIPS TO PREVENT FIRES AND BURNS, AND TO HELP KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE!

CANDLE SAFETY TIPS

ON AVERAGE, A CANDLE FIRE IS REPORTED IN U.S. HOMES EVERY 30 MINUTES! HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN USING CANDLES IN YOUR HOME.

- Always blow out candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't easily tip over.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- 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 could burn.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is being used in the home.
- Consider the safest alternative, flameless LED candles.



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PUT THE FREEZE ON WINTER FIRE AND BURNS!

DID YOU KNOW THAT SNOW INCREASES THE RISK OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

High snow drifts may block furnace vents and air intakes, especially those that have newer, higher efficiency furnaces. These types of furnaces vent out the side of the house rather than up through the roof. These types of vents need to be kept clear of snow to prevent the carbon monoxide from going back into the house.

Some furnaces have an automatic device that shuts them off if they become blocked, but not all of them. Please keep a three foot area clear around vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

ALSO BE SURE TO:

- Clear snow away from your dryer vents.
- Remove snow around street address markers so firefighters can find you in an emergency.
- Clear snow away from all fire hydrants in your community.



DRYING WET CLOTHES

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!

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT

With the high cost of heating fuels, it can be tempting to seek out alternative methods of heating your home. While some of these methods may be perfectly safe, others may be contributing factors to winter home fires. The following tips can help prevent fires!

WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES:

- Have your chimney inspected annually, and cleaned if necessary.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- When there are small children in the home, make sure you have a safety gate surrounding the entire fireplace area.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Make sure the fire is completely extinguished before going to bed.

SPACE HEATERS:

- Keep the heater at least three feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture, and other flammable materials.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Turn the heater off if you leave the area.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as the label of the heater itself.
- Never leave a space heater running or unattended while you sleep.
- Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them in a sink or bathroom.
- Never use gasoline in a kerosene heater. Even a small amount of gas mixed with kerosene can increase the risk of fire.
- Don't use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for indoor use.



GLASS FRONTED FIREPLACES POSE A HIDDEN DANGER

When we think about the dangers of a fireplace, most of us think about the immediate danger of flame and sparks from the fire. There is another hidden danger, especially when it comes to gas fireplaces - glass fireplace doors.

Toddlers are naturally attracted to the flames and these little ones move so quickly that there may not be time for you, as a parent, to stop them before they are in harm's way. Burns from glass fronted fireplace doors can happen in an instant.

Glass fireplace doors can heat up to almost 500 degrees in a matter of minutes and can stay hot enough to burn a child for up to 45 minutes after they have been turned off!

They have been compared to an oven without a door and become so hot that skin can, and will, actually adhere to the glass.

Please be aware of this danger, not just at home, but when visiting someone else's home that has a fireplace with a glass front or door.



KIDS ACTIVITY CORNER



WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT

Assembling a “Winter Storm Survival Kit” can help keep you safe in the event of a storm or power outage, and can be made into a fun scavenger hunt for older children.

SEARCH THE HOUSE FOR THESE ITEMS:

- Flashlights or battery operated lanterns and extra batteries.
- A battery powered radio to receive emergency updates.
- Canned or boxed food and bottled water, along with a can opener.
- Extra medicine.
- Baby and pet supplies.
- First aid kit and blankets.
- Board games or craft projects and other entertainment items that don't require electricity.

PARENTS MAKE SURE YOU HAVE:

- Plenty of heating fuel or an alternative heating source.
- Cash, in the event of a widespread power outage when ATMs will not be available.
- A full tank of fuel in your car.
- Fully charged your cell phone, portable DVD player, laptop, etc.

INDOOR FORTS

Get creative and use boxes, furniture, pillows, blankets and more to create a fun space for your child. Here's an idea called “Cave of Stars”. Go to: lifasmama.com and search on 10 Awesome fort ideas or type in your browser: lifasmama.com/10-awesome-fort-ideas-to-build-with-your-kids.

SNOW SENSORY BIN

Bring the snow inside and in a large tote or bucket hide their favorite toys and let them explore with a pair of mittens on.

For more fun winter activities, visit: www.burnprevention.org/winterfun/



Search on Burn Prevention Network



WWW.BURNPREVENTION.ORG