



Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

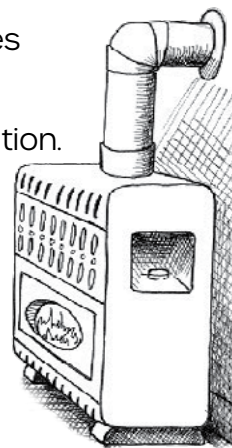
- Keep anything that can burn at least **three feet** away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a **three-foot** "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- **Never** use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified **professional** install stationary space-heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys **cleaned** and inspected every year by a qualified **professional**.
- **Remember** to turn portable heaters **off** when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Always** use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to **stop** sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a **metal** container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- **Test** smoke **alarms** at least once a month.



HEATING EQUIPMENT SMARTS

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home-heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



RAMSEY FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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