

HOME HEATING SAFETY

Improperly used space heaters, poorly maintained furnaces, and other home heating systems can be dangerous, causing everything from fires to carbon monoxide poisoning. Fortunately, there are many things that you can do to minimize the risk of fires related to heating equipment in your home. Maintaining and using your heating equipment wisely can save your property and prevent tragedy.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

16%

Approximately 16% of house fires are related to heating equipment annually.

79%

Approximately 79% of those fires are caused by space heaters.



- Keep anything that can burn such as clothing, bedding and curtains at least **3 FEET AWAY FROM THE HEATER**
- Plug portable heaters directly into an outlet and never into a power strip or an extension cord.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so that if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Put up a safety gate around your space heater to limit access to the unit.



HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S HEATING

- Keep flammable items away from your home's furnace, and ensure good airflow around the unit.
- Have your home's furnace inspected **annually**, before the heating season begins.
- Turn on your furnace before it's needed for regular use. If something seems wrong, call for service.

HOME HEATING SAFETY CONTINUED

Although a fireplace is a terrific way to warm your house, let's simplify the hazard; there's a **fire in your house**. So, there are rules to follow in order to keep yourself and those around you safe.



Rule #1 Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.

Rule #2 Do not burn paper in your fireplace.

Rule #3 Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.

Rule #4 Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

What to do if your home loses heat...

Even a temporary loss of heat can cause damage to your home and a failed heating system can put you or members of your household at risk of injuries, burns or death through improper use of alternative heating devices. Knowing what to do if your home loses heat can help you stay safe while you're waiting to have your furnace repaired.

- Never heat your home with your oven: your furnace vents the carbon monoxide it produces, but most ovens do not.
- Eat warm foods like soup and casserole.
- Drink warm beverages like tea or coffee.
- Wear layers.
- Turn on incandescent lights.
- Huddle with other members of your household.
- Use towels and rugs to block air leaks from doors and windows.
- Use a heating pad or an electric blanket, following all manufacturer's instructions.
- Check into a hotel if necessary.

