



CAMPUS FIRE FACTS

Turning down the danger in heating hot spot

Hot Zone: Space Heaters

If using space heaters, UL suggests consumers do so with extreme caution: 73 percent of all fires and 43 percent of all injuries related to heating result from improper use of these products.

- **All heaters need space.** Keep items that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- **Always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed,** and never place them in an area where a child is sleeping.
- **Look for the UL Mark** when purchasing a space heater, which means it has been tested for safety and includes protective features to lessen the risk of burn or fire hazards.

Hot Zone: Fireplaces

If you live in a building that has access to a fireplace, and you think it's safe and easy to gently warm your area by starting a small fire in the fireplace? Think again. Unfortunately, failure to clean a chimney or flue is the leading cause of all home heating equipment fires combined.¹

- **Maintain the chimney and flue.** They need to be cleaned and inspected annually by a trained professional.
- **Use a sturdy fireplace screen** to prevent sparks from flying into the area.
- **Be alert to the danger signs that signal a carbon monoxide (CO) problem** such as the absence of a draft in your chimney, soot falling into the fireplace, or small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent or flue.

Hot Zone: Wood Burning Stoves

If you live in an area that had a wood burning stove it is important to exercise care while using the stove. Recent

reports show they account for nearly 4,900 injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms each season.¹

- **Keep wood stove doors closed** unless loading or stoking the fire.
- **Be sure wood stove chimney connectors are installed,** and done so in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or professionally installed as many injuries are the result of improper installation.

Hot Zone: Staying Safe and Warm...

In addition to the above heating equipment tips, follow these additional tips to keep out of the "hot zones":

- **Only use heating equipment that has been tested for safety.** Products that bear the UL Mark have been tested to UL's stringent safety standards and found to be free of foreseeable hazards.
- **Never use cooking stoves, grills or ovens to heat the area.** They could potentially be a fire hazard or cause CO poisoning.



Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL Marks appearing on 72,000 manufacturers' products each year.

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