



CAMPUS FIRE FACTS

Safe Heating Practices

12 Rules for Home Heating Safety

1. In 2002, 68 percent of home heating fires involved fireplaces, space heaters and chimneys, according to the latest figures available from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
2. Of the 220 fatalities associated with home heating fires - 85 percent were associated with alternative heating sources. The 85 percent breaks down to include 46 percent for portable space heaters, 28 percent for woodstoves and other fixed space heaters, and 11 percent for fireplaces and chimneys.
3. Residential energy use is expected to increase by 9 percent by 2010 largely due to population growth and technology improvement (Alliance to Save Energy).
4. Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace the home's heating system. Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from household combustibles. Install smoke alarms to warn of a fire, but also have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in the home to warn about faulty furnace, fireplace and oven flues or any other venting problems.
5. Select heating equipment that bears the UL Mark. The UL Mark on a product means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.
6. Install and maintain heating equipment correctly, and be sure it complies with local fire and building codes. Have local building or certified maintenance and repair technicians check and clean your heating system once a year.
7. Have your chimney inspected by a professional heating technician prior to the start of every heating season and have it cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not removed.
8. Always protect your family and home by using a sturdy fireplace screen in front of a fire.
9. Remember to burn only wood -- never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or a neighboring home. Do not use flammable liquids in a fireplace.
10. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one that is UL Listed and have it properly installed according to local codes.
11. Do not start fires in your fireplace if the area around the fireplace and mantle are decorated with stockings or other combustible decorations.

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