

Home Heating Safety

Home owners should be more aware of the possibilities for home fires resulting from the use of heating appliances. Please make sure that your home furnace and fireplace are maintained and serviced annually through a commercial vendor.

Here are some facts about home heating related fires:

- From 2010-2012, an average of 45,200 home heating fires occurred in the United States each year. These fires caused an annual average of approximately 155 deaths, 625 injuries and \$351 million in property loss.
- Heating was the second leading cause of home fires after cooking.
- Home heating fires peaked in the early evening hours between 5 and 9 p.m. with the highest peak between 6 and 8 p.m. This four-hour period accounted for 30 percent of all home heating fires.
- Home heating fires peaked in January (21 percent) and declined to the lowest point from June to August.
- Confined fires — fires confined to chimneys, flues or fuel burners — accounted for 84 percent of home heating fires.
- Twenty-nine percent of the non-confined home heating fires — fires that spread past the object of origin — happened because the heat source (like a space heater or fire place) was too close to things that can burn.

The attached flyer regarding the safe use of portable home heaters is supplied for your information. Have a safe and healthy winter season.



Heat Your Home Safely



32%

of home heating fires are caused by space heaters.

MORE HOME FIRES OCCUR during the cold winter months than at any other time of year.



Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In

PLACE space heaters on a flat, level surface, away from high-traffic areas.



PLUG a space heater directly into an outlet and avoid using an extension cord.

NEVER LEAVE space heaters unattended.

ONLY USE space heaters with the certification label of a nationally recognized testing lab.

DON'T USE a space heater if the plug is broken or the cord is frayed, worn or damaged.



Four Home Heating Tips to Live By

1 **KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN** at least three feet away from a heating source.

3ft

2 **HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM** inspected annually.



3 **KEEP VENTS CLEAR** of dust and debris.



4 **INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)** alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

