

Fire Safety

Home fires and fire-related deaths are more likely to occur during the winter months than at any other time of the year. Here are 10 ways to help prevent a home fire during the winter months.

- Install smoke alarms in your home on every level and in every sleeping area.
Test them once a month and change the batteries as needed.
- Keep flammable items such as clothing, furniture, newspapers or magazines away from the fireplace, heater or radiator.
- Store all flammable liquid such as gasoline outside the home.
- Avoid plugging several appliance cords into the same electric socket.
- Install covers on stove knobs.
- When cooking, use the back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees or below.
- Keep items such as matches, lighters and other heat sources out of children's reach.
- Have a gas-powered dryer inspected at least once a year. Clean your dryer filter after every load and check to make sure no clothes or lint is misplaced behind the dryer.