

COLD WEATHER TIPS

How can you have a warm and worry free winter?

You can stay warm and safe by following a few safety tips.

Furnace Safety

- Have a qualified serviceman check your furnace and clean it.
- Remove trash, papers, paint from the area around the furnace.
- Use metal containers for ashes.

Fireplace Safety

- Cover the fireplace opening with a sturdy metal screen or heat-tempered glass door. Never leave fire unattended.
- Before and after heating season, have qualified personnel clean the chimney and check it for crumbling bricks, loose mortar, obstructions, and creosote buildup.
- Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwoods like oak and birch; avoid pine, spruce and wood that is green and moist.

Woodstove Safety

- Recommend cast iron or heavy steel stoves with a damper or draft control.
- There should be a minimum clearance of 36 inches between stove and walls and ceiling.
- Should be positioned on a base such as metal or brick which extends 18 inches beyond stove in all directions.

Portable Space Heaters

- Be sure heater shuts off if tipped over.
- Never leave children unattended with heater.
- Be careful around kerosene heaters with canister vacuum cleaners which "- can spread flames onto carpets, drapes, etc.
- Do not use around explosive fumes or materials.

Cold Weather Fire Safety

- Make certain curtains and blankets do not touch heaters.
- Never let vaporizer run dry.
- Plug equipment into separate outlets or use heavy duty extension cords.
- Never fold or roll an electric blanket; heat builds up and the wires break, store flat and unplugged.

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home; especially outside of bedrooms.
- Keep smoke detectors dust free; change batteries in the spring and fall when the clocks change.
- Test smoke detectors once a month.

Escape Planning

- Establish a fire escape plan.
- Every room should have two ways out; make sure windows open and are not painted shut. Try to find an exit that does not require opening the bedroom door.
- Determine a meeting place for all household members away from the house.
- If you suspect fire, get out and call the fire department from a neighbor's house. Never re-enter your home, it could cost you your life.