



Graham Fire & Rescue

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Space Heaters

- Use and maintain space heaters in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations
- Do not leave heating devices unattended or turned on while you are sleeping... get more blankets
- Provide all heating devices with at least three feet of clear space, away from beds, drapes, furniture and other combustible materials
- Examine gas lines for punctures, cracking or splits. Check the connectors and valves for leaks

Heat-Producing Appliances

- Leave space for air to circulate around other heat-producing equipment such as copy machines, coffee makers and computers
- Keep appliances away from anything that might catch fire. Do not stack books or papers on top of computer monitors
- Designate someone to turn off or unplug all appliances at the end of each work day at work. This can work well for chores at home too

Chimneys and Fireplaces

- Clean and maintain chimneys, fireplaces and furnaces on a regular basis. Most fires in wood stoves, fireplaces and chimneys occur because of a lack of regular cleaning, leading to the buildup of creosote (the residue of unburned fuel).
- Keep sparks and embers inside the fireplace with fire screens made of heat-tempered glass or sturdy metal
- Burn dry, well-seasoned hard wood only because it burn very clean and is the most efficient fuel

Smoke and CO Alarms

- If you don't have working smoke alarms installed... install them. Many fire departments will provide this service at no cost to their citizens
- If you have smoke alarms but do not know if they work... test them immediately... and regularly. If you have not changed the batteries in the smoke alarm for more than six months, change the batteries
- Install working CO alarms in your home to provide an early warning if carbon monoxide is accumulating. Heating equipment that burns fuel of any type is a potential source of carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that is created in the combustion (burning) process

General Fire –Prevention and Safety Practices

- Have a family escape plan with a meeting place pre-determined. Once you exit the home in an emergency, DO NOT return. Too many people lose their lives going back into a burning home. Smoke from burning materials in the average home is highly poisonous and toxic due to all the synthetic materials that make up the vast majority of all home things in our homes. One or two breaths of this highly toxic smoke is sufficient to produce respiratory and cardiac arrest.
- If you use candles, make sure you use them in a safe environment in a fireproof container and away from children. Do not leave them unattended. If possible, consider using flameless, battery-operated candles. For flame candles, be sure to place a non-combustible material between the candle container, and the furniture it is placed on.
- Consider full or partial remodel of your existing with residential sprinklers in one or more rooms. According to national statistics, the risk of death by fire is reduced by 82 percent when smoke alarms are accompanied with residential fire sprinklers.