

Winter Fire Safety

Kerosene Heaters

- ◆ Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- ◆ Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut-off in case the heater is tipped over.
- ◆ Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- ◆ Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type of fuel.**
- ◆ Keep kerosene and other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- ◆ **NEVER** fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- ◆ Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters - especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- ◆ When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent buildup of carbon monoxide.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

- ★ **Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly.** Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- ★ Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be laboratory tested (i.e. UL listed).
- ★ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- ★ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- ★ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted objects from going in and help prevent the possibility of burns or other injuries.
- ★ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15 - 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- ★ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- ★ If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. **NEVER** break logs apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

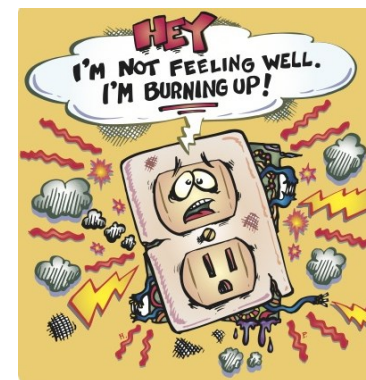


Grand Island Fire Department

Winter

Fire Safety

Tips



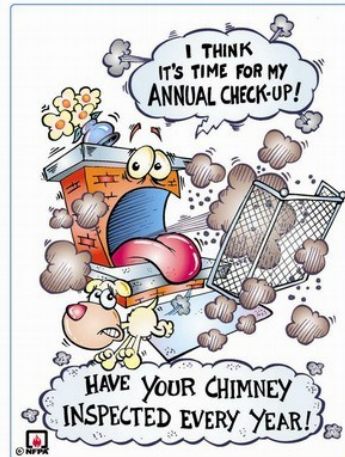
FIRE SAFETY
We all take part

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ◆ The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs. These methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented.
- ◆ US fire departments responded to an average of 56,400 home structure fires that started where heating equipment was involved. These fires caused an average of 560 deaths, 1600 injuries and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually.
- ◆ Failure to clean chimneys of creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment was the leading factor contributing to home heating fires.
- ◆ Space heaters whether portable or stationary, accounted for two out of every five home heating fires and four out of five home heating fire deaths.
- ◆ Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires.

FURNACE HEATING

- ◆ It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- ◆ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- ◆ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- ◆ Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported and free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- ◆ Is the chimney solid, does it have any cracks or loose bricks?
- ◆ All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- ◆ Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.



OTHER TIPS

- ◆ Never discard hot ashes inside or beside the house. Place them in a metal container outside, away from any combustibles.
- ◆ Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a burn hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- ◆ If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the load.
TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance cord.
- ◆ Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- ◆ Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite inside the wall space. Use hot water or a hand held dryer for thawing.
- ◆ If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow so that it can be located if it is needed.

Grand Island Fire Department

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- ◆ Station 1
409 E. Fonner Park Rd. 385-5300
- ◆ Station 2
1720 N. Broadwell Ave. 385-5310
- ◆ Station 3
2310 S. Webb Road 385-5337
- ◆ Station 4
3690 W. State St. 385-5387