

# SAFE HOME HEATING

Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires and home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



With cooler weather, shorter days, and in some places ice and snow, heating your home becomes important. No matter where you live, winter brings a change in season and a time to think about home-heating safety. CAL FIRE would like to offer the following **fire safety tips to encourage safety and warmth**:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, woodstove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Always turn portable heaters off when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



- Allow fireplace ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place in a tightly covered metal container at least ten-feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings.
- Never empty fireplace or woodstove ashes directly into a trash can.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and test them once a month.

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
that half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February?



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