



SAFETY TIPS

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Winter Fire Prevention Advice

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States (during December, January and February it is the leading cause)

Most heating equipment fires start as a result of misuse or improper maintenance. When purchasing new heating equipment, be sure to select products that have been tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory. Install and maintain heating equipment correctly.

Portable and other Space Heaters

Portable and space heaters can be either electric or fueled by gas, liquid fuel, or solid fuel. All types must be placed at least 36 inches away from anything that can burn, such as wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets, and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room, or when you go to sleep. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters, and be sure everyone understands that drying clothing or placing combustibles over heaters is a fire hazard. If you have an electric space heater check each season for fraying or splitting wires and overheating, have all problems repaired by a professional before operating the space heater.

Portable Kerosene Heaters

If you have liquid fueled space heater, use only fuel recommended by the manufacture. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel, because the wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a fire. When refueling, always turn off the heater and let it cool down before adding fuel. Wipe up any spills promptly. If you are considering a kerosene heater, store the kerosene away from heat or open flame in a approved container