



# Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

John R. Kasich, **Governor**  
David Goodman, **Director**

8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

[www.com.ohio.gov](http://www.com.ohio.gov)

## Home Heating Safety Tips

### Fireplaces and Wood Burning Stoves

- Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors and ceilings.
- A wood stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat and hot coals.
- Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire, and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from reaching out and igniting nearby objects.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- The immediate area in front of a fireplace (approximately 3 feet) should not have a rug, or carpet or exposed wood flooring.
- When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood, and dispose of the cooled ashes in a closed metal container outside and away from your home.
- Never leave a fire burning unattended in the fireplace.

### Portable Space Heaters

- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and do not leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug the heater when you are not using it.
- Don't use an extension cord with an electric portable heater. The current to the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- Don't plug more than one heating device into an outlet.
- Never use electric heaters near water – as in your bathroom or near a water heater.

continued...

## Kerosene Heaters

- Make sure the room has proper ventilation.
- Fill your heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene. Do not use fluid that is not recommended for your heater. Refuel outside, and only after the heater has cooled down.
- Check the wick every couple of weeks during the heating season. If the wick is dirty, clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Because a kerosene heater has a constant open flame, it should not be used in a room where there are flammable solvents, aerosol sprays, gasoline or any type of oil.

## Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors, when properly installed and maintained, provide early warning when fire occurs. For the greatest protection, install a smoke detector on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area.

Test smoke detectors at least once each month to ensure that they are working properly. Vacuum the dust from inside the detector at least once every year. Batteries in battery-operated detectors should be changed twice a year or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use. A disabled detector cannot save your life. In addition, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years or according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Also, develop an escape plan and make sure every family member knows what to do if the fire alarm does sound.

Ohio Department of Commerce  
Division of State Fire Marshal  
1-888-243-0305  
TTY/TDD: 1-800-750-0750  
[www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire)  
Follow us on Twitter: @Ohiofire