

COLD-WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Supplemental heating Devices:

- Use and maintain supplemental heating devices in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Do not leave heating devices unattended or turned on while you are sleeping.
- Provide all heating devices with at least three feet of clear space, away from beds, drapes, furniture and other combustibles.
- Examine gas lines for punctures 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 your place of work.

Chimneys and Fireplaces:

- Clean and maintain chimney fireplaces and furnaces on a regular basis. Most fire in wood stoves, fireplaces and chimneys occur because of a lack of regular cleaning, leading to a 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 because it's the most efficient fuel.
- Always place ashes from wood stoves and fireplaces in a metal container that has a lid that completely covers the top of the container. Place this item outside and away from any structure or wood products.

Smoke and CO Alarms:

- If you do not have a smoke alarm, you are encouraged to get one or more and either install them yourself or have them installed for you. If you do have these devices, maintain them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install CO (carbon monoxide) alarms in your home to provide you with an early warning of the presence of carbon monoxide in the home. Heating equipment that burns fuel is one of the primary sources of CO, a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is created when fuel burns incompletely.
- Test your smoke and CO alarms weekly to be sure they are in working order. It is recommended that you change the batteries in all alarms at least twice per year – once in the spring and once in the fall when Day Light Savings time goes into or out of effect.

General Fire Prevention and Safety Practices:

- Have a family escape plan with a meeting place once outside of the home. Practice exiting the home on a regular basis (E.D.I.T.H. – exit drills in the home). Once you leave your home, DO NOT RETURN for any reason. Too many people lose their life once they have exited the burning home and go back for a forgotten item.

- If you use candles for any reason in the home, make sure you use them in a safe environment in a fireproof container and away from small children. NEVER leave a burning candle unattended. If possible, consider using flameless, battery-operated candles.
- Consider getting a residential fire sprinkler system, installed in your home. Statistics indicate that the risk by fire in a sprinklered home is reduced by 82% when smoke detectors are accompanied with residential sprinklers.
- Additional information regarding any of the above information can be obtained by calling the Mountain View Fire Protection District at 303-772-0710.