



# QUINCY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S WINTER HOME HEATING SAFETY TIPS

## General Heating Safety Tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like your furnace, fireplace or portable space heaters.
- Have a 3 foot designated “Kid Free Zone” area around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Plug only 1 heat producing appliance (such as a space heater or portable radiator) into one electrical outlet at a time.
- Remember to always turn portable heaters off when leaving any room or before going to bed.
- Always use the correct fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed in your home to avoid the risk of CO poisoning and test them monthly.
- If you smell gas in your home or coming from your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave your home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.
- Place portable heaters on a stable, level surface. Make sure it cannot be knocked over.



- Always plug electric space heaters directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord or power strip to power the heater.

### **Kerosene Heater Safety Tips:**



- Consult the manufacturer's instructions on how to properly use any kerosene heater.
- Use only 1-k grade kerosene.
- Store kerosene away from the house in a container used only for kerosene to avoid any confusion with gasoline.
- Using gasoline instead of kerosene in your heater could result in an explosion.
- Don't smoke while handling fuel or refilling your heater.
- Take the heater outside to refill it, but don't overfill it.
- Always shut the heat off and allow it to cool completely before you refill it. Refilling a hot heater with kerosene can cause a flare-up, resulting in severe burns to anyone standing nearby.
- Improperly maintained heaters could explode or catch fire, so follow the manufacturer's instructions for regular cleaning of the heater's wick. Don't allow soot to build up in the heater.
- Kerosene heaters that aren't working properly can be a source of carbon monoxide, so install a carbon monoxide detector in your home if you use a kerosene heater.

### **Fireplace and Wood Stove Safety Tips:**

- 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 poisoning.



- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Make sure that your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Fire ashes should always be cool before putting them into any kind of covered, metal container.
- Never put ashes in a plastic container.
- Keep fireplace ashes containers a safe distance away from your home.
- The fire should be completely extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed.
- Only burn wood. Paper and other materials can escape while burning and ignite something nearby.

***Please contact your local fire department with any questions or concerns you have regarding heating sources for your home.***



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