



## Heating Safety

**Heating equipment** is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

### SAFETY TIPS

- **Keep** anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable heater.
- **Only use** heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- **Never use** your oven for heating.
- **Have** a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- **Maintain** heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- **Turn** portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **For fuel burning space heaters, always** use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- **Make sure** the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from the home.



- **For wood burning stoves, install** chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- **Make sure** all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Install** and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- **If you smell** gas in your gas heater, do not attempt to light the appliance. Turn off all the controls and open doors and windows. Call a gas service person.
- **Test** smoke alarms at least monthly.

— Your Source for SAFETY Information —