

Orwigsburg Fire Department

Safety Bulletin

WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOME

Alternate heating sources are a major contributing factor in residential fires. The following safety tips can help keep your home fire safe this winter.

Kerosene Heaters

Be sure the heater is in good working condition. Inspect the exhaust for a buildup of carbon. Be sure the unit has an emergency shutoff in case the heater is accidentally tipped over.

Burning kerosene can produce deadly fumes. Be sure the room is properly ventilated.

NEVER use a fuel other than the type recommended by the heater manufacturer.

Store kerosene and other flammable liquids in an approved metal safety can, in a well ventilated area, outside of the house.

NEVER refill the heater with fuel when it is in operation or while it is hot. Turn off the heater, allow it to cool and then take it outdoors to refill it.

Keep young children away from heaters.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Be sure the wood stove or fireplace has been properly installed. There should be a minimum of 36" clearance from combustibles and proper floor protection and support.

NEVER use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire.

Have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually.

NEVER discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place ashes in a metal container, outside and well away from the house.

Electric Heaters

Plug the heater directly into the wall socket. Do not use extension cords and do not overload outlets. Unplug heaters when not in use.

Keep combustibles and children away from the heater.

Do not use electric heaters in bathrooms where they may come in contact with water.

In General

Have a **Smoke Detector** on each level of your home and test the batteries monthly.

If you use kerosene or wood for heating, have a **Carbon Monoxide detector** in the room with the stove, fireplace or heater.

Have an escape plan with a pre-arranged location outdoors where family members will meet when they exit the home. Hold a **Home Fire Drill** and practice the plan with your family.

When you are shoveling out after the big snow storm, take a moment to shovel out the neighborhood fire hydrant. It will save valuable time in an emergency.