



This Winter Stay Safe While Keeping Warm!

It happens every fall and winter. The weather turns cold and people turn on space heaters to keep warm. A fire starts when the resident puts the heater too close to the bed, drapes, furniture and other combustible household items. Sometimes the fire starts because the heater is left on all night or the appliance tips over.

Early in 2007, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) worked with the national media and asked members to work with their local media to inform the public about the high number of house fires with fatalities that happened during the first half of February. A quick check of just media reports for the first 16 days of the month revealed 59 house-fire fatalities in 17 states. Thirty fatalities were single or double fatalities, and 29 deaths resulted from just six house fires and were counted as multiple fatalities (three or more individuals).

According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating devices are the leading cause of fires in the home during December, January and February. All kinds of space-heating equipment are involved in fires in the home: portable electric heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces, portable kerosene heaters and room gas heaters. But these fires don't have to happen. Most fires with space heaters are preventable if the key safety measures are followed.

The following are safety tips for using heating devices and candles as well as the basic fire prevention practices that we reinforce throughout the year. Let's keep safe while keeping warm this winter!

Portable Generator Hazards

The Invisible Killer Carbon Monoxide

IAFC, FEMA and CPSC Websites