

# HOW TO PREVENT

## Winter Home Fires

December and January are known for their high home fire frequency rates. They increase even more over the weekends! Here are some fire prevention tips to keep your family safe this winter.



### FIREPLACE SAFETY



- Only burn dry firewood. Damp wood will cause an influx of smoke into your home.
- Burning treated or painted wood can cause chemicals to release into the air.
- Add firewood slowly and carefully.
- Ensure that the damper, and any glass doors remain open while a fire is burning in the fireplace.

### SPACE HEATER SAFETY

- Follow the instructions given by the manufacturer.
- Place on a stable, flat surface.
- Be sure not to leave unattended.
- Always turn off before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Be sure not to place anything in front of the heater.



### HOME SAFETY



- Be sure to check your smoke detector batteries regularly, increasing frequency during the winter months.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least once a year.

### APPLIANCE SAFETY

- Clean out dryer ducts! Many fires begin in the laundry room due to flammable lint collecting in the ducts behind the dryer.
- Check the water heater. As heaters age, they can begin to deteriorate, causing a flash fire.



### SOURCES

- [https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4340093\\_FireFAQs.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340093_FireFAQs.pdf)
- <https://www.clean-organized-family-home.com/fireplace-safety.html>

