

Safety Tip #3

Winter Storms

We Rise and Shine



Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

Comments and

Lessons Learned

- If you have a high efficiency furnace and the exhaust is low to the ground, blowing snow can drift and cover the exhaust vent. This can result in **carbon monoxide** backing up into the home causing high levels of life threatening CO.
- If your power goes out and you have a portable generator, make sure it is placed outside, downwind from the house and not in the garage. A buildup of Co from the exhaust of a gasoline powered generator improperly located, can elevate CO levels in the home over time to dangerous levels.
- When shoveling heavy snow, take breaks, when snow blowing, keep your hands out of the shoot and away from the auger.
- Share this information with your family and friends.

Comments and lessons learned are from calls-for-service that retired Chief William Selzer attended or has researched.