

# HOME HEATING SAFETY



*For many residents, the high cost of home heating has increased the use of portable space heaters, fireplaces, and wood burning stoves. Unfortunately, using these devices can also increase the risk of home fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.*



*Space heaters cause 85% of all home heating fire deaths.*

## Home Heating Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources.
- Hire a professional to clean, inspect, and service your home's heating equipment, fireplace, and chimney annually.
- Purchase space heaters that have an automatic shut off.
- Always plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and unplug them when they are not in use.
- Keep space heaters away from children and pets.
- Turn space heaters off before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and embers from escaping.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can be deadly. Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning – headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, weakness, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air and call 9-1-1.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions if a wood stove is used to heat the home.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.



**Orange County  
Fire Authority**

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