

## Safety Tips

### Supplemental Heating Devices

- Use and maintain supplemental heating devices in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Do not leave heating devices unattended or turned on while you are sleeping.
- Provide all heating devices with at least three feet of clear space, away from beds, drapes, furniture and other combustible materials.
- Examine gas lines for punctures or splits. Check the connectors and valves for leaks.

### Heat-Producing Appliances

- Leave space for air to circulate around other heat-producing equipment, such as copy machines, coffee makers and computers.
- Keep appliances away from anything that might catch fire. Do not stack books or papers on top of computer monitors.
- Designate someone to turn off or unplug all appliances at the end of each workday at work.

### Chimneys and Fireplaces

- Clean and maintain chimneys fireplaces and furnaces on a regular basis. Most fires in wood stoves, fireplaces and chimneys occur because of a lack of regular cleaning, leading to the buildup of creosote (the residue of unburned fuel).
- Keep sparks and embers inside the fireplace with fire screens made of heat-tempered glass or sturdy metal.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned hard wood because it's the most efficient fuel.

### Smoke and CO Alarms

- If you don't have smoke alarms, install them. If you do, maintain them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install CO alarms in your home to provide you with an early warning if CO is accumulating. Heating equipment that burns fuel is a potential source of carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas that is created when fuel burns incompletely.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms weekly to be sure they are

working properly. Change the batteries in all alarms at least once a year.

## **General Fire-Prevention and Safety Practices**

- Have a family escape plan with a meeting place. Once you exit your home, DO NOT return. Too many people lose their lives going back into a burning home.
- If you use candles, make sure you use them in a safe environment in a fireproof container and away from children. Do not leave them unattended. If possible, consider using flameless, battery-operated candles.
- Consider getting a residential fire sprinkler installed. According to statistics, the risk of death by fire is reduced by 82 percent when smoke detectors are accompanied with residential fire sprinklers

### **CARBON MONOXIDE**

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce carbon monoxide. Burning charcoal produces carbon monoxide. Running cars produce carbon monoxide.

Every year, over 200 people in the United States die from carbon monoxide produced by fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, ranges, water heaters, room heaters). Others die from carbon monoxide produced while burning charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent. Still others die from carbon monoxide produced by cars left running in attached garages. Several thousand people go to the hospital emergency rooms for treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Use the test button on your detector/alarm. In some units this will

Symptoms include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

Prevention tips:

- Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Have the heating system inspected and serviced annually.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector/alarm in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never service fuel-burning appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools.
- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room with closed doors or

only test whether the circuitry is working. Check your manufacturer's instructions, if your unit only tests the circuitry you may be able to buy a separate test kit, which tests the carbon monoxide sensor inside the alarm.

Carbon monoxide detectors/alarms are available for boats and recreational vehicles and should be used. Detectors/alarms are required in motor homes and towable recreational vehicles that have a generator or are prepped for a generator. For more information, check out the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission site at

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466>

windows or in any room where people are sleeping

- Do not use gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors. If use is unavoidable, ensure that adequate ventilation is available and place engine unit to exhaust outdoors.

What to do if you experience symptoms:

- Get fresh air immediately
- Open windows and doors for more ventilation
- Turn off any combustion appliance and leave the house
- Call 9-1-1 and report your symptoms
- Contact your doctor immediately

What to do if your carbon monoxide detector/alarm sounds:

- Never ignore the alarm
- Operate the reset button
- Call 9-1-1
- Immediately move to fresh air outdoors or by an open door/window

## **WATER SCALDING WARNING**

Each year, approximately 3,800 injuries and 34 deaths occur in the home due to scalding from excessively hot tap water. The majority of these accidents involve the elderly and children under the age of five.

Most adults will suffer third-degree burns if exposed to 150-degree water for two seconds. Burns will also occur with a six-second exposure to 140-degree water or with a 30 second exposure to 130-degree water. Even if the temperature is 120 degrees, a five-minute exposure could result in third-degree burns.

Here are some suggestions to help you decrease the risk of a burn:

- Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- Child's bath water should not be higher than 104 degrees Fahrenheit
- Run cold water into the tub first, then add hot water to reach a safe temperature
- Before placing a child into the tub, always hand-test the water temperature
- Face the child away from the faucets and keep them closer to the other end of the tub (away from faucets)
- Never leave a child unattended in the bathtub
- Put a small slide-bolt latch on the bathroom door to keep children from entering without supervision

- When boiling water (cooking), keep pan handles turned to the side of the stove so they will not be pulled off of the stove by a child