

## Home Heating Safety Tips by CAL FIRE

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, woodstove or portable space heater.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Always turn portable heaters off when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place in a tightly covered metal container at least 10 feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings.
- Never empty fireplace or woodstove ashes directly into a trash can.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and test them once a month.

Roughly half of all home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. For more information on safe home heating visit the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable, they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.