

Winter Safety Tips

- ✓ Cooking appliances should **not** be used to heat a home.
- ✓ **Space heaters need space!** Be sure that combustible items (furniture, clothes, walls, YOU) are at least three feet from space heaters.
- ✓ Do not use extension cords for electric space heaters.
- ✓ Make sure your choice of heating equipment is permitted by law. For example, kerosene heaters are not allowed in all communities.
- ✓ Do it yourself installations can lead to fires and injury. Have oil/gas room heaters, fireplaces, wood stove (and inserts), and pellet stoves installed by a qualified and insured professional contractor. Wood burning equipment should comply with Rule 40 CFR Part 60 (AD-FRL1-3304-8) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The rule is designed to protect outdoor air quality but it also reduces the potential for creosote buildup.
- ✓ Chimneys - Have them inspected yearly (for wood burning appliances) and cleaned as needed.
- ✓ Heating systems - Have a licensed and insured professional heating contractor inspect and service your furnaces/heaters (oil, natural gas, propane, wood stoves) at least annually. A properly working heating system is the best method to economically heat your property and prevent possible malfunctions that could lead to fire or frozen pipes.
- ✓ Frozen pipes - Keep thermostats at a minimum of 55 degrees F. (use 60 degrees F. during a hard freeze of 15 degrees F. or below) to prevent frozen pipes and water damage. Lower temperatures can lead to bursting pipes. Rooms should not be closed off and kitchen-bathroom cabinet doors below sinks should be left open to let air warm the pipes.
- ✓ Candles - use only while awake and in the room.
- ✓ Live Christmas Trees - Make sure that the tree is fresh and provide plenty of water while it is inside your home. Test the needles often, if brittle the tree should be moved outside immediately.
- ✓ Grills - Keep the grill outside and at least 10 feet away from any combustible part of the residence while in use.