

## Fire Safety Tips

### *Escape plans save lives:*

Every household should have an escape plan. Draw a floor plan of your home and make sure every member of your household knows at least two ways out of each room. Decide on an outside meeting place where all household members are to gather after evacuating the building in the event of fire. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

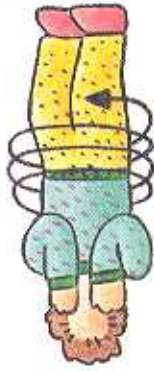


### *Smoke detectors give early warnings:*

Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, including the basement, and near each sleeping area. Test your detectors at least once a week and replace its batteries at least once a year.

### *Crawl low under smoke:*

If you encounter smoke while leaving a burning building, use an alternate exit. If you must exit through smoke, get down on your hands and knees and crawl under the smoke. Smoke and toxic fumes rise, so the air will be cleaner near the floor.



### *Stop, drop, and roll:*

If your clothes catch fire, do not run. Stop moving, drop to the floor, and roll over and over to smother the flames. Cover your face with your hands; this will protect your face and lungs.

### *Get out and stay out:*

Once you've left a burning building, do not go back in for any reason. Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone. If you believe that someone is still in the burning building, tell the fire fighters.



# Heating Without Getting Burned



People Protecting People Since 1896



© 1992 National Fire Protection Association  
Batterymarch Park, Quincy MA 02269

Printed in U.S.A.

1183/1/A

**A**ccidents involving fireplaces and heating equipment are a major cause of home fires. Most of these fires can be prevented.

**Before buying heating equipment, check with your local fire department to make sure that what you select complies with your area's building and fire codes.**

All portable heating equipment should bear the label of an independent testing laboratory, indicating that the heater has met basic safety standards.



## Vents and Chimneys

All fueled heaters must be vented in accordance with local building and fire codes to prevent dangerous carbon-monoxide build-up inside your home.

Cresote and carbon deposits can build up in a chimney and pose a fire

hazard. Have your chimney inspected by a professional before each heating season and cleaned if needed. If you use a wood stove, have the flues and chimney connections inspected and cleaned regularly. Unusually high concentrations of chimney deposits could mean your fireplace or wood stove is not burning efficiently and should be inspected. Consider installing a spark arrester on top of any chimney that vents a solid-fuel stove or fireplace.

## Give All Space Heaters Space

Place all space heaters at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from

furniture, walls, curtains, or anything that burns. Turn off space heaters when you leave home or go to bed.

## Electrical Heaters

Inspect the cords on electric heaters. Have an electrician replace frayed, cracked, or damaged cords. If cords overheat when the heater is in use, have the unit inspected and serviced.

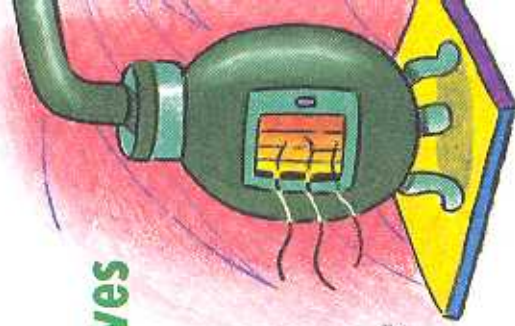
## Fireplaces

When you use your fireplace, always protect your home from sparks by using a fire screen made of



## Wood or Coal Stoves

Place an approved stove board under any wood or coal stove to protect the floor from heat and stray embers. Install wood and coal stoves at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from walls and keep combustible materials away from the stove and its chimney connections.



## Liquid Fuel Safety

If your space heater runs on liquid fuel, such as kerosene, let the heater cool down before refueling it. Adding fuel to a hot heater can cause the fuel to ignite. Refuel your heaters outside, where spills won't present a fire hazard.

Use only the fuel recommended by your heater's manufacturer. Never use substitutes or a lower-grade fuel. Never put gasoline in any space heater.

## Gas-Fueled Heaters

Check vents periodically to make sure they are not blocked. Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms, where the small room size poses an added danger of rapid carbon monoxide build-up.

