

NOVEMBER: Week 4 – Home Heating

Overview: Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire deaths nationally and the second leading known cause in Tennessee. Between 2010 and 2019, heating fires accounted for 6.6% of all structure fires and 10.8% of all structure fire deaths in Tennessee. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Heating safety tips
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf?la=en
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Home Heating Safety” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>
- Heating safety information in 9 other languages:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating/handouts-in-other-languages>
- “Home Heating Safety” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BqR4WNd3IA>
- “Heating Safety Messages in American Sign Language” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCtnLC6-JPg>
- “Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment” NFPA report
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>
- U.S. home heating fires fact sheet
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/home_heating_fact_sheet.pdf?la=en

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home heating safety:

- **Customizable Press Release**
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitnewsrelease.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- **Twitter**
 - Nearly half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>
 - Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Please review @NFPA's safety information: <http://ow.ly/W26zO> #WinterSafety
 - Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, wood stove, portable heater) <http://ow.ly/W1Lhl>
 - Give space heaters space! They account for 4 out of 5 home heating fire deaths: <http://ow.ly/W279j> #WinterSafety

- With a few simple safety tips & precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>
- **Facebook**
 - There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening. Check them out here: http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf
 - Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for 2 of every 5 (40%) of home heating fires and more than 4 out of 5 (84%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>
 - Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>

Educator Tip: Before the weather turns too cold, send out a mass press release to any major media markets in your area regarding home heating safety. The message should reach as many people as possible and should include information on:

- Safety tips for heating your home
- Safety tips for using gas heaters
- Safety tips for heating with electricity
- Safety tips for using space heaters
- Safety tips for using wood stoves
- Chimney safety

To send out this information, you should use as many mediums as possible. Generate print messages for newspapers and audio messages for radio, as well as use any social media outlets as possible. To get started, check out these templates from NFPA:

- Op/Ed on heating safety
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitoped.rtf?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Letter to the Editor on alternative heating
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditoralternativeheating.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Example response to local fire caused by heating equipment
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditorresponsetolocalfire.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Sample article on wood stoves:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitwoodstovearticle.docx?la=en>
- Sample article on portable space heaters:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitportableheatersarticle.docx?la=en>

- Sample article on keeping heaters “three feet away”:
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/holidays/put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/winter_freeze_three_feet_away.docx?la=en

NFPA Messaging:

Heating

General Heating

10.1.3 All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.

10.1.10 Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

Portable Electric Space Heaters

10.2.3 Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut off—if they tip over, they shut off.

10.2.4 Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.