

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms

In 2010, nearly 60 percent of Minnesota's fire deaths were in homes where smoke alarms were not present, not working, or not known to be working.



- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to provide protection for your family.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are required within 10 feet of all sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home and in each sleeping area.
- Replace batteries at least once a year in smoke and CO alarms equipped with batteries or battery back-up systems.
- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms after seven years, or per manufacturer's instructions. Check the back of the alarm for a manufacture date. If it isn't there, the alarm is more than 10 years old.

Space Heater Safety

Over the past five years (2006-2010) there have been 84 fires in Minnesota related to space heaters.



- When buying a heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company.
- Keep the heater three feet away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.
- Place it on a level surface where no one can bump it, knock it over or place items on top of it.
- Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.
- Warn children of the dangers of physical contact with an electric heater.



Based on data from the
2010 Fire in Minnesota Report

Winter Fire Safety

*Minnesota
State Fire Marshal Division*



www.fire.state.mn.us

Candle Safety

In 2010, open flame was the second-leading cause of residential fires in Minnesota. There were 414 fires caused by open flame that year. These fires were responsible for 15 reported injuries and more than \$9.5 million in property loss.



- Consider using flameless candles.
- Use candles in the center of an area clear of anything that could burn for one-foot in every direction. Keep decorations, napkins, curtains and other items at least 12 inches away.
- Use a sturdy container of metal, glass or ceramic material.
- Stay in the same room with burning candles. Most candle fires start when lit candles are left unattended. Don't leave candles burning out of your sight or when you fall asleep at night.
- Place candles out of reach of children and pets. Many fires are started when pets knock candles over, or when children touch or play with them.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Store them in a high cabinet — preferably a locked one.

Chimney and Woodstove Safety

In 2010, heating-related fires were the third-leading cause of residential fires in Minnesota. There were 375 heating related fires that year; 68 percent occurred in a fireplace or chimney area. These fires resulted in nearly \$3.5 million in property loss.



- Most chimney fires occur due to a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue professionally inspected every year and cleaned as necessary. Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start a fire in the fireplace.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling onto the floor.

- Never leave children unattended near a wood-burning stove or fireplace. Children should be kept at least three feet back from all heating devices.
- Make sure the damper is open before lighting a fire. Do not close the damper before the fire has died and embers are cold. Closed dampers can result in accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide inside the home.
- Ashes that are cleaned out of a wood-burning stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid and placed outside, on the ground, several feet from any building or wall.
- Do not place ashes in a paper bag or cardboard box, or place them in a garage. Ashes and embers can stay hot for days and ignite combustibles even after you think they're cold.

