

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTER SAFETY TIPS

The Columbus Division of Fire would like to offer the following Winter Safety Tips to help residents stay safe during this winter season.

Heating Safety

Along with cold weather comes the increased use of alternative heaters.

- Space heaters should be at least 3 feet from any combustibles, including bedding and furniture.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for operating your space heater.
- If the heater uses fuel, use only the type of fuel recommended.
- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel heaters outdoors.
- Make sure alternative heaters have "tip switches." These are designed to automatically turn off the heater if they tip over.
- Never leave an operating space heater unattended and shut it off before going to bed.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed and at least 3-feet-away from combustible materials. Ensure they have proper floor support and adequate ventilation.
- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.

Fireplaces

- Make sure your chimney has been professionally inspected and if necessary, cleaned at least once a year to clear out soot and creosote that can ignite and burn.
- Always use a glass or metal fire screen to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items.
- Only burn materials designed for a fireplace.
- Put fireplace ashes in metal containers and never store them in your home or garage.

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