



Home Heating

As the temperature outside drops, your family takes to the indoors to keep safe and warm. What you may not realize is that turning up the heat can increase the risk of home heating fires too.

You can reduce the chance of a fire by taking some simple precautions and using heating equipment properly.

The Enumclaw Fire Department recommends some simple home heating safety tips, so residents can help keep our community safe and warm this winter.

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding, or furniture at least 3 feet away from heating equipment. Have a three foot "kid free" zone around open fires and space heaters.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. (Ashes can be hot enough to ignite combustibles even days after active burning.) Dispose of ashes in a metal container and locate away from the house or another structure.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home - when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Change the batteries when we change the clocks each year.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.