



# Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department

Public Education Division

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## Heating Safety

There has been an average of 50,000 heating fires in residential buildings over the last 5 years. These fires have resulted in over 150 deaths, 575 injuries and \$350,000,000 in property loss.

Fireplaces, wood burning stoves, forced air furnaces (natural gas, propane, fuel oil), space heaters, portable heaters, chimneys, water heaters, boilers, pellet stoves, kerosene heaters. Quite a few different sources can cause a heating related fire. These items need to be used safely and responsibly. They also must be inspected and maintained properly—per manufacturer's instructions.

If you are installing your own wood stove, follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation. If you are building a new house or renovating a house to include a fire place or other new heating equipment, make sure you have qualified personnel install those items.

If using a space heater, ensure that it is UL listed. Do not use extension cords with space heaters and be sure to unplug them when they are not in use!

## Heating Life Safety Tips

- ✓ Keep anything that can burn (combustibles) at least three (3) feet away from all heating equipment—**INCLUDING CHILDREN!**
- ✓ Never use an oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Have heating equipment/chimneys inspected and cleaned annually.
- ✓ Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or when you go to bed.
- ✓ Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning from heaters.
- ✓ If you smell gas near your gas furnace (or other gas appliance), leave the home immediately and call 911.

### Did you know...?

- ✓ Half of all home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.
- ✓ Home heating fires peak between 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ Between 2005-2009, the leading contributing factor for home heating fire deaths was combustibles too close to heating equipment.
- ✓ Nearly 30% of residential units with heating fires had no working smoke detectors or they did not operate.
- ✓ An estimated 900 portable heater fires in residential buildings are reported each year causing 70 deaths, 150 injuries and \$53,000,000 in property loss.

**Public Education: Our First Line of Defense!**