



Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers urges all Philadelphians to practice these important fire safety tips during the impending winter weather

PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Look After Elderly Relatives and Neighbors

- ➔ Check their smoke alarms to protect their lives.
- ➔ Ensure that they are warm but make sure they understand the following tips:

Smoke Alarms

- ➔ Have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- ➔ If you haven't checked your batteries recently, check them now.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ➔ Have a CO alarm within 15 feet of each sleeping area of your home.
- ➔ Test batteries today.

Use of Heaters

- ➔ **Never** use gas or electric ranges and ovens to heat your home.
- ➔ Keep combustible materials such as newspapers, furniture or clothes at least 3 feet (36 inches) away from portable heaters.
- ➔ **Never** place portable heaters at the bottom of the stairway. This will block the escape route in the event of a fire.
- ➔ For portable electric heaters, check cords for cracks, breaks or loose connections. **Never** overload electrical sockets or use power strips!

For Portable Kerosene Heaters

- ➔ Use only approved K-1 kerosene, **NEVER GASOLINE!**
- ➔ **Never** fill or refill kerosene heaters indoors or while hot.
- ➔ Avoid overfilling heater.
- ➔ **Never** store kerosene or other ignitable liquids indoors.
- ➔ Clean and/or replace old wicks once a year.



During Freezing Temperatures

- ➔ Know how to get out of your home in case of emergencies. Ensure windows and doors are in working order. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- ➔ **Never** leave children alone in the home, even for a short period of time.
- ➔ Avoid trying to thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. Get help from a neighbor. Use hot water or a device specifically designed for thawing pipes.
- ➔ “Take Smoking Outside.” Periods of cold weather are not a reason to change this rule.
- ➔ Remember your commitment to fire safety. Now is not the time to relax or be careless with fire. In fact, special care should be taken around fire during freezing temperatures.

If You Still Have Cold Related Hardships:

- ➔ Stay with friends or family
- ➔ Contact PGW at (215) 684-6100 for information regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- ➔ Contact PECO for electrical concerns.

REMEMBER

You Should Call 911 In Case of EMERGENCY. For non-emergencies or questions regarding cold weather issues, you should call 311.

**Smoke alarms are available through the Smoke Alarm Hotline at
215 - 686 - 1176**

Visit: www.FreedomFromFire.com
(for more fire safety and education information)