

U.S. Fire Administration
FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

Alternative Heater Safety

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if only they had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Alternative Heater Safety Life-Saving Tips

- ☑ Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- ☑ Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. If you use a kerosene heater, use only the recommended fuel. Always refuel outdoors safely away from your home.
- ☑ Allow your heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors.
- ☑ Keep the fire in the fireplace by making sure you have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.
- ☑ Clean your chimney regularly – chimney tar build-up can ignite your chimney, roof, and the whole house.
- ☑ Space heaters need space. Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from each heater.
- ☑ When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- ☑ Carefully follow manufacturers' installation and maintenance instructions.
- ☑ For wood stove fuel use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash.
- ☑ In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out. Get out. Stay out.

Did you know?

- ▶ Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- ▶ Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires.
- ▶ Deaths due to fires caused by heating a home are particularly preventable.
- ▶ For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.fema.gov or www.firesafety.gov.



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