



With winter upon us, the Village of Angel Fire Fire Department would like to offer the following winter safety information concerning home heating and carbon monoxide (CO).

## Home Heating

Home heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires reported in the United States. These fires account for approximately 150 deaths, 575 injuries and \$326 million in property loss annually.

The high cost of home heating has caused many Americans to search for alternative sources of heat. These alternative heating sources include; space heaters, fire places and wood stoves.

Please follow these safety tips:

### Fireplaces and wood stoves

- Have your fire box and chimney cleaned and inspected at least once a year. Cracks or penetrations may develop over time to allow smoke and fire outside the chimney or fire box into your home.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to keep embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Keep flammable materials away from the heating unit, even when off or cold. Some gas fire places are on thermostats and will turn on automatically.
- When using synthetic logs, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart, they will burn unevenly and release higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fire box, before you go to sleep. This will help the fire heat up again and force toxic carbon monoxide into the home.
- Never discard ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house. Do not discard them in any dumpster.

### Portable Heaters

- Keep a minimum of 36" around a space heater. Many fires in bedrooms were caused by a flammable material, such as clothing or blankets, being thrown on or in front of them.
- Never leave the equipment unattended.
- Avoid using extension cords. If required, use an extension cord capable of carrying the necessary amp load. Be sure not to overload the circuit.

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## Carbon monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas. It is often called “the silent killer”. Each year 150 people die in the United States from non-fire related CO Poisonings. Symptoms of CO poisoning is similar to high altitude sickness or the flu. If multiple people experience headache, nausea, drowsiness and/or confusion suspect CO poisoning, get to fresh air and call 9-1-1.

Be sure to install a CO alarm in a central location outside sleeping areas and on every floor.

## Other important safety tips

### Smoke Detectors

The best way to protect yourself and your family is to have working smoke detectors. There should be one on every level and in each bed room. Remember to check and clean it on a monthly basis and replace the batteries twice a year.

### Escape Plan

Whether you are a full time resident or just staying the night, develop an escape plan if a fire should occur. Know two (2) routes of escape from the building, especially from the bedrooms and have a meeting place for your family.

The Village of Angel Fire wants you to have a warm and safe winter.

For more information contact the Angel Fire Fire Department at 575-377-3347.