

CITY OF IDAHO FALLS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Hall
308 Constitution Way
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Heating Safety from the Idaho Falls Fire Department

Idaho Falls, ID: There's nothing better than curling up by a warm fire with a good book during the long Idaho winter months. But with heating equipment fires being one of the leading causes of home fires and deaths, the Idaho Falls Fire Department, in conjunction with the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), would like to provide some simple safety tips and precautions.

Safety Tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, wood stove and portable space heater).
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment according to state and local codes.
- Hire qualified professionals to clean heating equipment and chimneys yearly.
- Turn portable heaters off when not home or when sleeping.
- Always use manufacture-recommended fuel in fuel burning space heaters.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying across the room. Ashes need to be cooled prior to placing them in a metal container, and the container should be placed away from the home.
- And, as always, test smoke alarms on a monthly basis and change the batteries in the spring and fall.

Chief Dave Hanneman with the Idaho Falls Fire Department states, "As we begin the winter season and spend more time indoors, it is important to think about fire safety in the home.

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Watching space heater use and other heating sources are keys to protecting your family. We also recommend everyone have a carbon monoxide detector in their home.”

Facts & Figures: *(Based on 2007-2011 annual averages)*

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (53%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Half (50%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

Source: NFPA's "[Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment](#)" report by John R. Hall, Jr., October 2013.

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About Idaho Falls Fire Department: The mission of the Idaho Falls Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of Idaho Falls by providing the highest possible levels of service through fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical services and mitigation of the effects of natural and man-made disasters consistent with the resources provided as desired and dictated by the citizens and elected officials of the City of Idaho Falls.

The Idaho Falls Fire Department Fire Services division serves population of approximately 85,000 residents occupying approximately 250 square miles. The area includes the City of Idaho Falls and the Bonneville County Fire Protection District. The Idaho Falls Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division serves a population of approximately 118,000 residents occupying approximately 1900 square miles. The area includes Bonneville County and portions of Bingham and Jefferson counties.