



Winter Home Safety

There are certain dangers that are more common during the cold-weather months. Learn to recognize these issues and help prevent problems from occurring in your home this season.

The number one cause of death in children is unintentional injury. Fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths among children.

Burns:

- Each year approximately nine children age 14 and under die from scald and burn-related injuries. Keep in mind, children four years-old and younger account for nearly all of these deaths.
- Of the children ages four and under that become hospitalized for burn-related injuries, 65% are treated for scald burns and 20% for contact burns.
- 95% of microwave burns among children are scald burns. These burns are typically caused by spilling hot food or liquids and primarily result in injuries to the face and/or trunk.



Cooking – Did You Know?

- Facts: Home cooking equipment is the leading cause of residential fires and fire-related injuries. Also, home fires and home fire-related deaths are more likely to occur during the cold-weather months (December – March).
- At the Age of 5: Children at this age can now stir the ingredients in a bowl, rinse foods using cold water, and make shapes with cookie cutters.
- At the Age of 9: Children at this age can now use a butter knife to spread condiments or to slice soft cheese.

Cooking – Steps to Safety

- Stay with your food while it cooks. Leaving cooking food unattended is the number one cause of house fires.
- Never hold a child while cooking.
- Keep your pots and pans out of the reach of little hands. Use the back burners when cooking and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Supervise your child when they are near or using a microwave and make sure that no child under the age of 10 removes hot items.
- Make a habit of wearing close-fitting clothing while cooking and instruct your child to follow your example.



- Pay close attention to the location of items sitting on tablecloths, place mats and hot pads. Make sure that young children will be unable to grab hold of these items, as they could result in hot food or liquids sloshing/spilling onto the child.

Candle Safety:

- Never leave candles unattended and be sure to extinguish them prior to leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and do not leave a candle in the same room as a child without adult supervision.
- Children and teenagers should not be allowed to keep candles in their bedrooms.
- When using a candle make sure to place it on a heat-resistant surface, out of the path of kids and pets, and keep it well-away from all other flammable objects (e.g. clothing, curtains, blinds, paper, books, Christmas trees, flammable decorations, etc.).
- Never use candles as a light to check pilot lights or fueling equipment such as kerosene heaters or lanterns. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- Always extinguish candles by blowing them out gently so as not to splatter hot wax. Never extinguish a candle with water, or, in the case of jar candles, by replacing the lid while the candle is still lit.
- Keep wax pools free of wick trimmings or other foreign matter that present fire hazards. Be aware of candle rings that could catch on fire if the wax overflowed on to them.
- Store candles, matches, and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children. If possible, store them in a locked cabinet.



Fireplace Safety

When enjoying your fireplace, safety is a must! It is important to remember these basic safety precautions:

- Never leave a young child alone near a gas fireplace; they can be burned before, during and after use of the fireplace.
- Create a barrier around the gas fireplace with the use of safety guards can be installed to keep your child at a safe distance at all times. Safety gates can keep your child from being in the room alone.
- Fireplace glass and other surfaces get extremely hot and can cause burns if touched. Consider purchasing a safety attachment designed to disperse heat from the fireplace doors.

- Fireplaces, stoves and inserts (and their surrounding material) will remain hot for a period of time after being turned off, so caution should be used at all times.
- Keep clothing, furniture, draperies and other flammable materials a safe distance away.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

This silent killer cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. It takes the lives of 184 children in the U.S. every year.



- When you heat up your vehicle this winter, be sure that you remove it from your garage immediately after starting it.
- Never use your stove to heat up your house.
- Keep your dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace vents on the outside of your home clear of any snow, ice or other debris.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and make sure to keep them a minimum of 15 feet away from any fuel-burning appliance.
- A smoke alarm is not a substitute for a carbon monoxide alarm and the opposite is also true; so be sure to install both in your home!
- Test your alarms regularly and update them every 5-7 years.



Winter Water Danger

- Supervise your children while in or near pools, hot tubs or any other body of water.
- Keep your pools and spas safe and secure. Install a minimum of 5' tall, four-sided isolation fencing around your spas and pools. This fencing should have a self-closing and self-latching gate. Do not use the exterior of the house as one side of the fence.
- Do not allow your children to walk out on to frozen bodies of water. The ice may have thin spots, holes, cracks, etc. that could put your child at risk.

