



FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Christian M. Bell, Chief

Emergency Calls	911
Administration	715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation	715/839-4825
After Hours	715/839-5013
E-mail	ecfire@eauclairewi.gov
City Website	www.eauclairewi.gov

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 17, 2017
TO: All News Media
FROM: Community Risk Reduction Division
SUBJECT: Home Heating Safety

With the arrival of cooler temperatures, there is an increased risk of structure fires and carbon monoxide emergencies. In an average year, heating is the cause of approximately 50,000 residential structure fires. With the varying costs of certain fuels, many people resort to using alternative heating methods such as fireplaces, wood burning stoves, and space heaters to heat their homes. We ask that you be vigilant in keeping your home safe in this heating season. The following are some safety tips from the US Fire Administration:

Wood Stoves & Fireplaces

- ❖ Be sure they are installed properly. Make sure there is the required clearance from any combustible surface. Check with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ❖ Have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually, especially if it has not been used in some time.
- ❖ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- ❖ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and embers from jumping out.
- ❖ Do not use excessive amounts of paper to build fire.
- ❖ Never burn charcoal indoors; it can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ❖ Keep combustible materials away from the mantle.
- ❖ Make sure the fireplace is completely out before you go to sleep.
- ❖ If using synthetic logs, be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.



CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

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Furnaces

- ❖ Have your furnace inspected to make sure all the controls and shutoffs are in proper working order.
- ❖ Inspect the walls and ceiling near your furnace chimney for discoloration or hot spots. Additional insulation or clearances may be required.
- ❖ Check the pipes for holes or cracks or soot buildup around the seams, which could allow carbon monoxide to escape into the home.
- ❖ Check the chimney for cracked or loose bricks. If found, they need to be fixed before using.
- ❖ Keep combustible items clear of the furnace.
- ❖ Keep outside intake and exhaust pipes clear of ice and snow.
- ❖ If you smell gas, exit your home immediately and call 911.

Space Heaters

- ❖ Only use space heaters approved and listed for safe use by a third party (UL).
- ❖ Make sure your heater has a safety shutdown feature if it tips over.
- ❖ Plug the space heater directly into a wall outlet; do not use a power strip, extension cords, or other electrical adapters.
- ❖ Keep blankets, clothes, and other combustibles away from the space heater.
- ❖ Do not attempt to dry wet clothes on the heater.
- ❖ Always shut the heater off before going to sleep.

If you have any questions regarding these home heating safety tips, please contact the Eau Claire Fire Department at 839-4825.