



FIRE DEPARTMENT

With the cold here so is the house fire season. Many fires start each year due to improper care of furnaces and fireplaces. Here are some furnace and fireplace safety tips.

Furnace:

- Keep the area cleared around the fireplace and chimney
- Always use a fireplace screen
- Don't overload the fireplace
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand
- When building a fire place the logs at the rear
- Don't leave a burning fire unattended
- Keep wood stored outdoors and covered
- Have a qualified person inspect your fireplace and clean it
- Choose the right fuel
- Use seasoned wood
- Burn smartly
- Minimize creosote buildup
- Read and follow the instructions on fire logs
- If your fireplace is equipped with glass doors, leave them open while burning the fire log
- Always make sure the flue is open
- Do not use any flammable liquids to start the fire
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace fire can reignite
- Don't burn trash in a fireplace
- Don't burn charcoal in a fireplace
- Don't place rugs in front of the fireplace
- Don't place combustible materials on the mantle

Furnace Safety:

- Have your furnace cleaned and checked regularly
- Be sure all furnace controls are in good working order
- Leave furnace work to the experts
- Have the repairperson check the wall and the ceiling near the furnace and flue. If they are hot additional insulation and clearance may be needed
- Check to make sure flue pipes are well supported and cleared of obstructions
- Make sure there is no damage to the chimney
- If going away for extended periods of time turn your thermostat down
- Clean and change furnace filters regularly
- Replace carpeting in the furnace compartment with sheet metal or other fireproof material
- Clean out the furnace area
- Clean dirt out of the blower motor

Electric Space Heaters:

- Make sure it is labeled with the UL label



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- It should be equipped with an alarm and a switch that automatically shuts off if tipped over
- Keep objects pets and people at least "3" feet away from heaters
- Don't use space heaters in a bathroom
- Never put any papers in a space heater in an attempt to produce more heat
- Never leave a space heater running when not at home
- Don't use space heaters fueled by gasoline or diesel in a home
- Don't use drop cords to power space heaters

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**