

Portable Space Heaters

When purchasing new units, make sure they have a nationally recognized testing mark, such as Underwrites Laboratories (UL).

When shutting off heaters, follow the instructions. Only purchase heaters with automatic shutoff features.



Smoke Alarms

Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home. They are one of the most effective tools to detect home fires. Install them on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Make sure each unit works properly and test them monthly.

For additional safety, install carbon monoxide detectors. Fuel burning heaters produce the colorless, odorless gas that can kill if not vented properly.



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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How to Keep Warm Safely

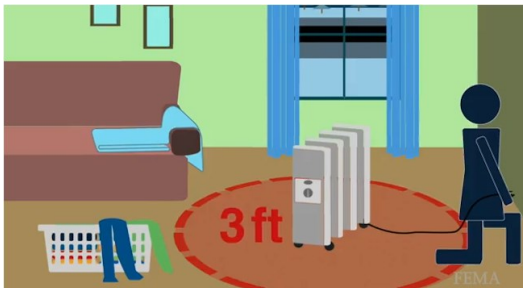


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The Office of the Fire Marshal Suggests...

- If you use a wood, coal, pellet stove, or fireplace, have a professional inspect your chimney and its related equipment every year.
- Provide all home heating systems with at least 3 feet of clear space, away from beds, drapes, furniture and other combustible material.
- Ensure proper ventilation when heating your home, keep a door or window slightly open.
- Check your local building codes for regulations regarding uses of home heating systems.



Wood Stoves, Fireplaces and Gas Heaters

- Have chimneys and fireplaces cleaned annually.
- Beware of creosote buildup.



- Top chimney with spark guard.
- Keep the damper open when in use.
- Use a glass screen large enough to cover the fireplace opening.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned hardwood.
- Dispose of cool ashes away from any structure in a metal container.
- Inspect gas heaters monthly during the year and weekly in the winter.
- Examine gas lines for punctures or splits.
- Check connectors and valves for leaks.

Kerosene Heaters

- NEVER USE GASOLINE.
- Use only water clear grade K-1 kerosene.
- Refuel outside and after the heater is completely cooled.
- Store in approved container away from heat and sunlight.

Electric Heaters

- Place away from water sources.
- Check wires and fuses for damage and have heater repaired immediately.
- Make sure home wiring fits needs of heaters.

