

## **Carbon Monoxide Precautions**

Each year, have a qualified technician service your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances. Install battery-operated **carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms** in your home. Locate ***CO alarms*** outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area. Locate ***smoke alarms*** on each level of the house and inside every bedroom. Check batteries monthly.

Replace smoke and CO alarm batteries when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If an alarm sounds, leave your home and call 911. Seek medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, lightheaded, or nauseous.

## **Heating Precautions**

**Central Heating - Electric or Gas** - BEFORE the weather turns cold, run the heat to ensure function, and have a service tech service the system yearly.

**Fireplaces** - Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote or debris. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home. Open the fireplace damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper if the ashes are still warm. Store fireplace ashes in a fire resistant container and cover it with a lid. Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles.

**Charcoal grills** - NEVER burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers. Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.

## **Space Heater Safety**

Do NOT set on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, such as ceramic tile floor. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep NEVER place a space heater close to a sleeping person or pet. Use a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally -recognized testing laboratory.

## **Electric Space Heaters**

Do not use these heaters as a substitute for central heating. They are designed for temporary heating only. Do not use them while sleeping or when unattended. Do not locate electric heaters in heavily traveled areas or areas where children might touch them. Avoid the use of an extension cord with an electric heater. Do not use near water because of the possibility of shock or electrocution.

## **Gas Space Heaters**

The newer un-vented gas space heaters are equipped with an **oxygen depletion sensor (ODS)**, which detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating. The ODS shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates. If you have an older gas space heater that does not have an ODS, consider replacing it with a new, ODS-equipped model. If the pilot light of your heater should go out:

1. Shut off the gas.
2. Never allow gas to accumulate. Ventilate the area and wait five minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying to light the pilot.
3. After waiting, sniff for gas. **IF YOU SMELL GAS, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LIGHT THE APPLIANCE** or touch any electrical switches or controls. Turn off all controls and open a window or door. Leave the area, and then call a gas service technician.
4. If you do not smell gas, light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot.