



# Millstone Township Fire District #1

## Bureau of Fire Prevention

P.O. Box 83, Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Office: 609-259-2560 [www.mtbofc.com](http://www.mtbofc.com) Fax: 609-259-9064

### Winter Home Heating Safety Tips

December, January and February are the leading months for home heating fires. Overall, heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire deaths. There are between 350,000 and 400,000 house fires in the United States every year that result in almost \$8 billion in annual damages, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe from home heating fires this winter:

#### General Heating Safety:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment. Examples include, furnaces, fireplaces or portable space heaters.
- Never use your stove top or oven to heat your home.
- Plug only 1 heat producing appliance (such as a space heater or portable radiator) into one electrical outlet at a time.
- Remember to always turn portable heaters off when leaving any room or before going to bed.
- Place portable heaters on a flat, level, non-flammable surface such as ceramic tile rather than on a carpet. Don't place space heaters near curtains, bedding or anything flammable.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed in your home to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. These detectors should be placed with-in 10 feet of any bedroom. Remember to test them monthly.
- If you smell gas in your home or coming from your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave your home immediately. Call the fire department and the gas company.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.

#### Heating Equipment Safety Tips:

- Have a qualified professional install stationary, space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment. Insure these heaters are installed according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Heating equipment should be serviced annually.
- Keep portable generators away from windows and use them as far away from the house as possible.

#### Fireplace Safety Tips:

- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Make sure that your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Fire ashes should always be cooled before removing them from for disposal. Place these ashes into a covered, metal container.
- Keep fireplace ashes containers at a safe distance from your home.

Your family and home are just as important to us as they are to you. Stay safe by using these home heating safety tips. Please feel free to contact the Fire Bureau at the above number with any questions. Fire Inspectors are on duty from 6am-6pm 7 days a week.