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MCHD HEALTH BLOG

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Public Health
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MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



FIRE SAFETY DURING WINTER MONTHS

Winter has officially arrived and the first snow covered ground has made its appearance. When temperatures start to drop and we all look for ways to heat our homes, it is time to talk about fire safety. Follow these heating tips from the U.S. Fire Administration to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter:

Space Heater

- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 10 feet from your home.

Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

Did you have a real Christmas tree in your home this season? Don't forget to get rid of your tree now that Christmas has passed. A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.

To learn more about how to prevent fires in your home this winter, visit <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prevent-fires/heating/>.