

HEATING SAFETY



As temperatures drop outdoors and people take steps to warm their homes, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department reminds you home heating is second only to cooking when it comes to the causes of home fires.

Heating fires - including chimneys and chimney connectors, space heaters, central heating, fireplaces, water heaters and heat tape - account for 14% of all home fires in the country.

Space heaters account for one-third of the home heating fires and three-fourths of home heating fire deaths nationwide.

The peak time of home heating fires is between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.

Never use an oven to heat your home.

Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.

Use a sturdy fireplace screen.

Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.