

General Fire Safety

- ♦ Make sure you have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. For maximum protection, place an alarm in each bedroom/sleeping area.
- ♦ Test your smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are working. (Include your children in the testing so they begin to recognize the sound.) If your alarm is “chirping,” replace the battery.
- ♦ Create and practice a home fire escape plan! Determine two ways out of every room and identify an outside meeting place.
- ♦ In the case of fire, get everyone out and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s phone.
- ♦ Educate children about the dangers of playing with lighters, matches, and fire.
- ♦ Teach your child how to call for help in emergencies and reward their understanding of fire safety.
- ♦ Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it (visit our web site for fire extinguisher tips).
- ♦ If you should have a pan fire while cooking, slide a lid or cookie sheet over the pan from the side, and turn off the heat source. If the fire is in the oven, keep the oven door closed and turn off the heat.



Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Serving the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Newberg, North Plains, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, and Wilsonville, along with surrounding communities within portions of unincorporated Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties



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Prevent • Prepare • Respond



For additional safety tips, please visit our web site at www.tvfr.com

Heat It Up, Don't Burn It Down!



Heating Safety for Your Home



Furnace Safety

- ♦ Inspect and clean your furnace prior to each heating season.
- ♦ Follow appliance directions for oiling motors and checking drive belts and replace worn belts as necessary.
- ♦ If you can't locate appliance instructions or are unsure of how to maintain or service your unit, contact a professional furnace service company to assist you.
- ♦ Periodically inspect and replace furnace filters to ensure the efficiency of your system.
- ♦ Keep combustible items such as boxes, flammable liquids, newspapers, etc., at least 3 feet away from the pilot light of a gas furnace.



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning may include:

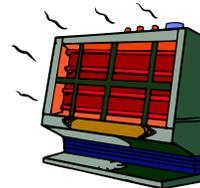
- ♦ Slight headache or dizziness
- ♦ Nausea
- ♦ Drowsiness or euphoric feeling
- ♦ Confusion or irritability
- ♦ Unconsciousness



Everyone is at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning, however, unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens, and people with heart or lung problems may be more vulnerable to poisoning.

Portable Heaters

- ♦ Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-approved portable heaters and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- ♦ Never use kerosene, propane, or other outdoor-use heaters indoors. They may start a fire and there is a high risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ♦ Make sure your portable heater has a "tip switch" which automatically shuts off the heater in the event the unit is knocked over.
- ♦ Many units have exposed surfaces which become very hot. Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from combustibles such as bedding, furniture, and/or drapes.
- ♦ Keep children and pets away from all portable heaters.
- ♦ Never dry clothes or shoes by placing them on top of a heating unit.
- ♦ Always turn off space heaters when you go to bed or leave the house.
- ♦ Never use an electric heater near water, such as in a bathroom.
- ♦ Do not plug other devices into an outlet used by an electric space heater.
- ♦ Portable heaters are temporary heating units for single rooms - don't try to heat an entire house with them.
- ♦ And finally, don't go to sleep without turning off your portable heater.



Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- ♦ Make sure your fireplace or woodstove is installed according to the local building codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- ♦ Have your chimney and flue pipes inspected for cracks and cleaned by a professional. Leaks could bring *deadly* Carbon Monoxide fumes into your home.
- ♦ Install a tight-fitting fireplace screen or place a sturdy screen in front of your fireplace.
- ♦ Before lighting a fire, make sure the flue is unobstructed and that the damper is open.
- ♦ Never burn newspapers, wrapping paper, or greenery in a fireplace or woodstove.
- ♦ Never use gasoline, lighter fluid, or any other petroleum products to start or rekindle a fire.
- ♦ Burn only dry, seasoned wood in your woodstove or fireplace to prevent the buildup of creosote.
- ♦ Keep your fire manageable. A fire that grows too large and hot can cause a chimney fire.
- ♦ Keep all combustible materials at least three feet away from the fireplace or woodstove.
- ♦ Dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid and store the container far away from combustibles such as a deck or siding. Keep the ashes in this container for a minimum of five days before disposing of them further.