



Fireplaces

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

More than one in three Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-burning appliances as the primary way to heat their homes. Many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes.

Do's and Don'ts

- * Don't use gasoline to start a fire. Use paper, kindling and dry wood.
- * Use a screen to keep sparks from popping out of the fire.
- * Make sure that floor coverings and furniture are far enough away from the fireplace.
- * Make sure your flue is clean and open, and that your damper works. Open the damper before starting a fire.
- * Don't use your fireplace as an incinerator for trash.
- * Make sure the fire is out before you leave it alone or go to bed.
- * Dispose of ashes in a metal bucket or other metal container. Make sure they are cool.
- * Install smoke detectors and make sure they work.
- * Keep a 5-pound fire extinguisher on hand. It should be rated for ABC fires, and you should know how to use it.
- * Don't use water to extinguish a fire. It can crack the bricks in your hearth. Let the fire burn itself out.
- * When burning artificial logs, burn only one at a time. They produce too much concentrated heat for some types of fireplaces.
- * Have a chimney sweep inspect and clean your chimney at least once a year.

www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx



Naval Safety Center
375 A Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

Contact the Media Division
(757) 444-3520 ext. 7870
safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil