

Unexpected Ways Fires Start

#2 Source:

Heating Equipment

The Problem:

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths!

A True Fire Story:

A 7 year old girl was killed in SW Roanoke when she stayed behind to find her dog instead of following her grandmother out of the burning house. The cause of the fire was a kerosene heater.

The Statistics:

15%
of fires,
13%
of deaths

Most deaths from heating equipment

occur when wood stoves, kerosene heaters and space heaters are in use and ignite nearby combustibles while everyone's asleep. Wood Stoves and Fireplaces can also create fires when the chimney is not maintained and creosote buildup. Ashes improperly discarded from fireplaces and wood stoves can also cause a fire that can spread quickly. Kerosene heaters pose not only a fire danger but a carbon monoxide danger as well.



The Solution:

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from drapes, bedding and other flammables. Keep combustibles at least 5 ft. from wood stoves or fireplaces.
- Plug space heaters directly into outlets, not into extension cords!
- Don't use space heaters while you sleep or when you leave the house.
- Make sure that children do not pile toys or trash near space heaters.
- Purchase a space heater that has a safety feature that shuts it off should it tip over.
- Empty ashes into a metal container and store them away from combustibles for at least a week before dumping.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned.



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