

PRESS RELEASE



01-24-19 DMFD Safe Heating Guidelines

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT:

Lt. Chris Clement
Public Information Officer
Des Moines Fire Department
(515) 283-4948
firedept@dmgov.org

DES MOINES, IOWA – Thursday, January 24, 2019 – With this winter’s coldest weather thus far upon us, citizens should take steps to ensure that their homes are being heated safely. Heating equipment is the second biggest contributor to home fires in the U.S. and the third biggest contributor to home fire deaths. Space heaters alone account for over 40% of home heating fires and 85% of all home heating fire deaths, with over half the space heater-related deaths occurring in the middle of the night. Ensure your family’s safety by following these guidelines:

- Use space heaters safely. Purchase devices with “tip-over” protection, especially where children and pets are present. Maintain three feet of clear space around space heaters, and plug them directly into the wall outlet, NOT an extension cord or power strip. Ensure that every space heater is supervised by an adult and turned off when the room is unoccupied or the occupants are asleep.
- Have furnaces and water heaters professionally installed and maintained regularly. Not only will this help minimize the risk of fire, but of carbon monoxide poisoning, as well.
- Keep wood-burning stove and fireplace screens/doors closed to prevent embers from escaping the firebox. Moreover, dispose of ashes only after they have cooled and in closed metal containers.
- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home and in every sleeping area. Make sure to replace the batteries according to manufacturer directions, and press the “test” button monthly. Carbon monoxide alarms on each level of the home can also alert you to a malfunctioning, and potentially deadly, heating appliance.

For more information, contact the City of Des Moines Fire Department’s Public Information Office at
(515) 283-4948.

About the City of Des Moines

The City of Des Moines: Iowa’s capital city and local government servicing more than 215,000 residents, 51+ neighborhoods, over 4000 acres of parkland and 81 miles of trails. The City of Des Moines stands to be a financially strong city with exceptional city services, fostering an involved community in a customer friendly atmosphere. Visit <http://www.dmgov.org/>, Facebook <http://facebook.com/DesMoinesGov> and Twitter @DesMoinesGov for more information.

