



PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGE



HEATER AND FIRE SAFETY DURING WINTER MONTHS

A strong Arctic front is bringing frigid temperatures to our area. The Friendswood Office of Emergency Management encourages residents to prepare and be safe.

Even though space heaters are an easy alternative for warming up a room, they are also the main cause of home fires during the winter months.

The following steps can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty:

- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.
- Never leave space heaters unattended.
- Keep all flammable materials at least three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces and stoves.
- Place your space heater on a hard, level, nonflammable surface.
- Keep children and pets away.
- Look for space heaters that shut off automatically if they fall over.
- Keep the fire in your fireplace by using a glass or metal screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
- Never leave fireplaces unattended.
- Be sure to have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and furnaces professionally inspected once a year.

Make it your goal to prepare ahead, install smoke alarms on every floor of your home. Check them once a month by pressing the test button and replace the batteries as necessary.

Finally, confirm that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly, and practice your home fire escape plan so every member of your family, including young children and elderly, can get out quickly and safely.