



January 2024 CFD Report for Community Council Meetings

- * (INSERT previous month run totals Fire/EMS)
- * Discuss trend info (if applicable)

January TOPIC: **Fire Safety at Home During the Cold Winter Months**

Home Heating Fire Safety



The Cincinnati Fire Department is encouraging the public to focus on fire safety when heating their homes during winter. Individuals need to use extra care if they are relying on alternative heating sources to save money on heating bills.

Please keep in mind such heating methods are a major contributing factor in residential fires. "Proper installation, use and maintenance of winter heating devices are essential for reducing the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Home heating fires in Ohio are often caused by human error, particularly through the misuse of portable heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces.

In Ohio during 2022, 151 people were killed in fires. Regardless of age, background or where we live, these deadly fires could affect any one of us.

Many of these fires could have been prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and follow the safety tips contained in the information below.

- Have a qualified professional check your home's heating system annually. Furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and their chimneys should be inspected and cleaned prior to the start of every heating season.
- Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors, and ceilings.
- A wood stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat and hot coals.

- Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire, and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from reaching out and igniting nearby objects.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- The immediate area in front of a fireplace (approximately 3 ft.) should not have a rug, carpet, or exposed wood flooring.
- When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood and dispose of the cooled ashes in a closed metal container outside and away from your home.
- Never leave a fire burning unattended in the fireplace.

Portable Space Heaters

- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and do not leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug it when you are not using it.
- Don't use an extension cord with an electric portable heater. The current from the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- Don't plug more than one heating device into an outlet.
- Never use electric heaters near water – like in your bathroom or near a water heater.

Extension Cords – Ohio Fire Code

- Extension cords and flexible cords **shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring.** Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances.
- Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multiplug adapter and, except for approved multiplug extension cords, shall serve only one portable appliance.
- The ampacity of the extension cords shall be not less than the rated capacity of the portable appliance supplied by the cord.
- Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage.
- Extension cords shall be grounded when serving grounded portable appliances.

Smoke Alarms Installation

Please sign-up to have the Cincinnati Fire Department install smoke alarms in your home. We have smoke alarms available from the American Red Cross.

Remember smoke alarms saves lives, so sign up today to have the Cincinnati Fire Department install smoke alarms in your home. Members of the community can also call our Fire Prevention Bureau at **357-7585**.

Smoke Alarm request link is below:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/fire-prevention/fire-prevention-forms/smoke-alarm/>