10 Deadly Winter Heating Mistakes

Half of home fires occur during December, January, and February. Of those, half are caused by space heaters.

* Not knowing how to safely operate your space heaters or off-grid heaters.
* Not choosing a space heater with a thermostat, auto-shutoff if it tips over, and overheat protection.
* Not having or not updating batteries in smoke or CO alarms.
* Not providing ventilation for open flame heaters that consume oxygen.
* Not having fireplace flue cleaned or heating equipment checked annually by experts.
* Not keeping a 3-foot empty space around heat sources—no combustible material, no pets, no children.
* Not using the right kind of fuel for heating equipment.
* Using extension cords to power heaters. Plug directly into wall outlet.
* Plugging too many things into a wall outlet.
* Not turning off and unplugging your heater when you leave the room or go to bed.