

157th ARW Safety Savvy

Fall Safety

Crisp air, changing leaves, and football games, fall has officially arrived. This means it's time to take a hike, rake the leaves, and buy the Halloween candy, all of which can present a variety of health and safety hazards. It's getting time to turn up the heat and given the current oil/gas prices, more and more people are turning to alternate ways to heat their homes. So, here are a few safety tips that will help keep you safe, warm and healthy in the months to come.

Inspect Chimney: Most fires involving either masonry or prefabricated metal chimneys occur because of improper installation, use or maintenance. Here are a few of the most common causes: chimney installation too close to wood framing; thermal insulation too close to the chimney; and, passing the stovepipe or chimney through a ceiling or wall, causing ignition of wood framing. Also, always operate your appliance within the manufacturer's recommended temperature limits. Too low a temperature increases creosote buildup, and too high a temperature may eventually cause damage to the chimney and result in a fire. Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if the chimney is not properly cleaned. Here is a site that has excellent information on chimneys, chimney liners, how to select the proper wood, etc, and information about drier vents:

<http://www.csia.org/>



Miscellaneous sites to browse through:

Autumn Leaves can be a hazard: http://news.carjunkie.com/car_safety/autumn-leaves-driving-hazard-cde562.shtml

Fall Pet Safety: <http://www.arkinc.org/autumn.htm>

Tire Safety - <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/TireSafety/ridesonit/brochure.html>

Fireplaces & Wood Stoves: Be sure your wood or coal stove bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper use and maintenance. Be sure the fireplace was constructed for actual use, not just for decoration. Inspect it to be sure that it has adequate protective linings and smoke ducts. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned if necessary. Burn only wood, and be sure the fireplace and wood stove are placed on an approved stove board (hearth) to protect the floor from heat and hot coals. Always use a screen around the fireplace to keep sparks from flying out. Be sure to check with your local fire department and check local codes before having your wood stove installed. Here are other helpful suggestions:

http://www.hpba.org/fileadmin/factsheets/product/FS_FireplaceSafety.pdf

<http://www.inspect-ny.com/chimneys/aschim02.htm>

Gas Fireplace Information:

http://homebuying.about.com/cs/gaslogs/a/ventfree_1ogs.htm

<http://www.gaslogshop.com/>

Pellet Stoves:

<http://hearth.com/what/pellet/pellet2.html>

<http://hearth.com/what/pellet/pellet1.html>

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/167645/be_proactive_in_your_pellet_stove_safety.html?cat=6



CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY TIPS

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- ❖ CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ❖ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- ❖ Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- ❖ Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- ❖ Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- ❖ If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- ❖ If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- ❖ During and after a snowstorm (I know it's a little early for snow right now), make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- ❖ A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- ❖ Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

For more information check out the following:

<http://www.cosafety.org/>

Eat, Drink And Be Scary (But Safe!!)
Your Risk Management Staff



S

Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

A

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

F

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you and your children.

E

Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

H

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.

A

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent skin and eye irritation.

L

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

L

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

O

Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

W

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

E

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook well.

E

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Otherwise, stay outside.

N

Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

Just a couple of tips for having trick-or-treaters at your house:

- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.