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Fall Seasonal Fire & Life Safety Information

Every season brings its own safety hazards. As summer turns to fall, it's a good idea to start thinking about our home heating systems, fireplaces, candles, and leaves!

- Check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home to make sure they work! Replace the batteries and check the date on the back of the detector. If it is older than ten years, you should replace the detector. Make sure to do this before using the heat or fireplace!
- Have your heating system, fireplaces, and chimney checked by a professional before the season. Make sure that your chimney is clear of any debris or creosote buildup. Creosote is a deposit from smoke which can build up and start a fire.
- Make sure the area around your furnace/boiler and water heater is clear of anything that can burn. Never use the area around these appliances for storage. Not only can it cause a fire, but it can restrict air flow to the appliance.
- If using a fireplace or fire pit, use only seasoned, dry woods. Never burn treated wood. When done, put all ashes outdoors and away from anything that can burn (fences, garages, etc). Store them in a metal container for disposal.
- Never park your car over a pile of leaves, and make sure you pile leaves far away from your house. Keep leaves, branches, and other materials which burn from accumulating on your property. Never burn leaves, the embers and sparks can travel far and set other fires.
- Never burn candles unattended. Place them in sturdy, burn-resistant containers that won't tip over. Never place them near windows where blinds or curtains could blow over them, or in high traffic areas where pets or children could knock them over.
- If using space heaters, make sure they are plugged directly into the wall and have an auto-shutoff feature. Don't use space heaters unattended and never use them with extension cords or power strips.
- Choose Halloween Costumes and Holiday Decorations which are flame resistant. Always keep lit candles away from decorations and things that can burn.

Be sure to check out our tip sheets for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Holiday Safety as well!