



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

Volume 5, Issue 1
January 2020

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

Winter Fire Facts:

Home fires occur more in winter months than in any other season.

Heating, holiday decorations, winter storms and candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire during the winter months.

Heating is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries.

December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires.

Local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 52,050 fires involving heating equipment each year in 2012-2016.

These fires resulted in annual losses of 490 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$1

billion in direct property damage.

Every two out of five fires (40%) that occurred due to heating equipment were as a result of improper use of space heaters.

The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (54%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.

Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.

- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Never power heat-producing appliances using extension cords.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

U.S. Fire Administration-USFA

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Put-A-Freeze-on-Winter-Fires>

Inside a burning house, this thing is best to make. And best to make it quickly, before the fire's too much to take!

Haste

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn completely. Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during winter months.

Electrical home fires are also a leading cause of home fires in the U.S. Roughly half of all home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment, while nearly another half involved other known types of equipment like washer or dryer fans, and space heaters.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

valdostafire@valdostacity.com

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| G G | U Win 3+3=6, |
| ENOUGH | U Lose 3+3=6 |
| O O | |

Answers to last month's word scramble are Santa Claus, sleigh, wreath, stocking, reindeer, candy cane, Rudolph, tree, bells, December

Fire Safety Quiz

1. It is okay to use the oven to heat a home.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. The U.S. ENERGY STAR program recommends replacing your home's air filter every ___ months, but you can check it more frequently and replace it as often as necessary.
 - A. 12
 - B. 6
 - C. 9
 - D. 3

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. C.



Brian S. Boutwell, Fire Chief