

Fireplace Safety

It's that time of the year for roaring fires in the fireplace and for everyone to follow these simple safety rules:

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Have the chimney inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a professional chimney sweep to ensure it's clear of obstructions and creosote.
- ▶ Have a cap installed at the top of the chimney to avoid the possibility that debris or animals can block the chimney.
- ▶ Install both a smoke and carbon monoxide detector. (Make sure the batteries work.)
- ▶ Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.
- ▶ Make sure the area around the fireplace is clear of furniture, books, newspapers and other potentially flammable materials. (Two feet away)

LIGHTING FIRE

- ▶ Clean out ashes from previous fires. Open the damper.
- ▶ Use a fireplace grate.
- ▶ Keep glass doors open during the fire.
- ▶ Use fireplace tools to tend the fire.
- ▶ Build a safe fire.
- ▶ Always close the firescreen when in use. is a good rule.)

USING COMMON SENSE

- ▶ Never burn garbage, rolled newspapers, charcoal or plastic in the fireplace.
- ▶ Never use gasoline or any liquid accelerant to help start a fire.
- ▶ Keep small children and pets away from the fireplace.
- ▶ Never leave a fire unattended.
- ▶ Don't close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning.
- ▶ Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- ▶ When cleaning the fireplace, store ashes in a non-combustible container with a tightly fitting lid and place the container away from the house.
- ▶ Never burn a Christmas tree in the fireplace.

Did you know???

- One of every three Christmas Tree fires is caused by electrical problems
- You should throw out any Holiday lights that show signs of fraying, bare wires or other wear.
- If a home experiences a Christmas tree fire it is more likely to be fatal than other types of fires

Christmas Tree Safety:

- Never block an exit with a Christmas Tree
- Only use non-flammable decorations
- Keep trees away from heat vents and other heat sources
- Remove the tree from your home when the needles are brittle or begin to fall off
- Pick a tree stand that can hold the tree securely and should hold enough water for two days