

# Think Safety First When Heating your Home this Winter



Heating caused more than 10,768 fires over the past five years and is the number two cause of home fires in Massachusetts. Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. That's the way to . . . Keep Warm - Keep Safe.

## Cover the ABCs of Fire Safety

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year, when you change the clocks.
- Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape plan.
- Practice home fire safety and set a good example for the children.

## Be Careful When Using Fireplaces and Solid Fuel Stoves

If you heat your home by burning *solid fuels* (coal, firewood, pellets), be careful before, during and after using these kinds of fuels.

- Have the chimney professionally cleaned every year.
- Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- Get a building permit before installing a stove.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Dispose of the ashes in a **metal** container, with a lid, away from the house, garage and porch.

## Space Heaters Need Space

Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, do so safely.

- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.



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- Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Always turn off when going to bed or leaving home.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in MA for home use.

## Maintain Natural Gas Equipment

Natural gas is a safe and efficient way to cook, heat our homes and hot water.

- Have your furnace and hot water heater professionally checked every year.
- Do not use or store gasoline or painting supplies inside where they can be ignited by the pilot light.

Gas leaks can be dangerous – if you smell something like rotten eggs or you think there might be a leak,

- Move outdoors.
- Do not smoke or turn on or off electrical switches - sparks can cause an explosion.
- Dial 911 immediately.

## Maintain Oil Heating Equipment

Home heating with fuel oil is also safe and efficient.

- Have your furnace professionally cleaned and checked every year.
- Don't let the tank get completely empty.
- Call for service if the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house.

## Carbon Monoxide: the Silent Killer

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home.

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.
- Don't use the gas stove or oven for heat.
- Have furnaces and chimneys checked annually by a professional.
- Keep appliance vents and exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow and bushes.

## Fuel Assistance

**For information on fuel assistance, please call the HEATLINE at 1-800-632-8175 (or for Boston only 617-357-6012) or on-line at [www.mass.gov/dhcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd).**

For more information go to:  
[www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe)



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# Be extra smart about home heating.

ere in Massachusetts, winters can be very cold. So home heating is very important to your family's comfort and health. But you want to be sure you heat your home in the safest possible way.

Whether you heat with coal, electricity, firewood, heating oil, kerosene, natural gas, pellets or propane, problems can occur if the systems are not cleaned and maintained properly, are not installed correctly, or are used improperly. This can lead to dangerous situations, fires and even deaths.

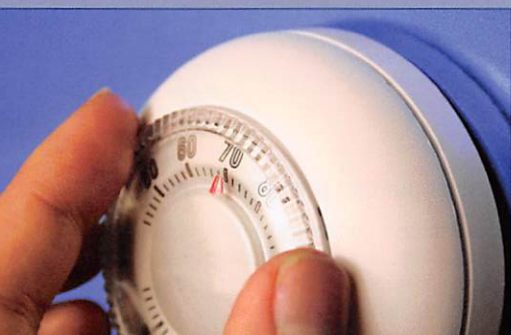
This brochure can help you avoid making many of the most common home heating mistakes and help you keep warm and keep safe this winter.

From 2006 to 2010, there were more than 13,910 fires due to faulty heating equipment. Tragically, 91 people were injured, and 18 people lost their lives.

## Think safety first when heating your home this winter.

Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. That's the way to...

...keep warm, keep safe.



# Sea súper listo cuando caliente su casa.

Aquí en Massachusetts, los inviernos pueden ser muy fríos. De modo que el calentar su casa es muy importante para la comodidad y la salud de su familia. Pero usted desea estar seguro de que calienta su hogar de la forma más segura posible.

No importa si usted calienta su hogar con carbón, electricidad, leña, aceite, keroseno, gas natural, perdigones o propano, los problemas pueden ocurrir si los sistemas no están limpios y si no han sido mantenidos apropiadamente, si no han sido instalados correctamente, o si se usan de forma inapropiada. Esto puede conllevar a situaciones peligrosas, incendios e incluso la muerte.

Este folleto puede ayudarlo a evitar que cometa muchos de los errores más comunes que las personas cometen al calentar el hogar y que pueda ayudarlo a mantenerse caliente y seguro este invierno.

Desde el 2006 hasta el 2010, ha habido más de 13,910 incendios debido al equipo de calentamiento. Trágicamente, 91 personas fueron heridas, y 18 personas perdieron sus vidas.

## Piense en la seguridad primero cuando caliente su hogar este invierno.

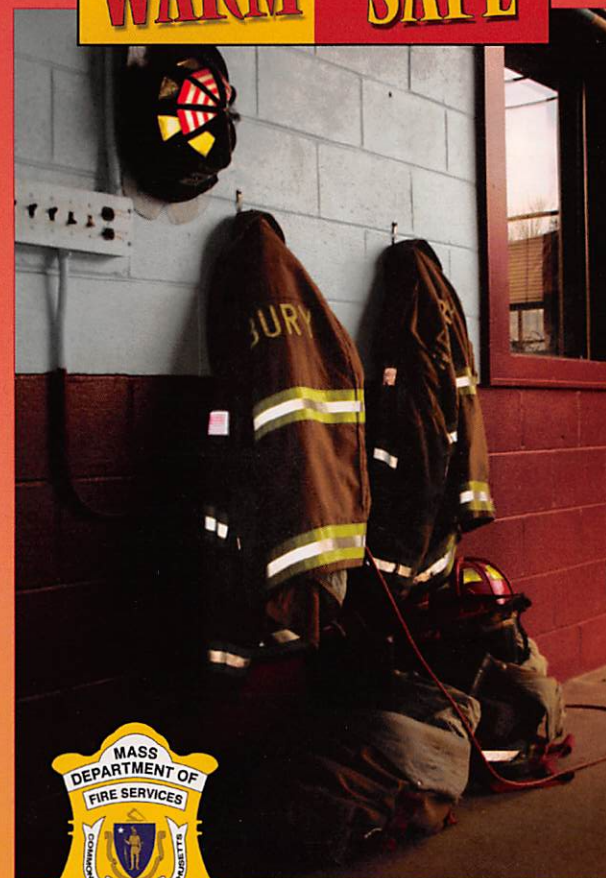
Use su sistema para calentar su hogar y el espacio de los aparatos para calentar de manera inteligente y responsable.

Esa es la forma para...

...mantenerse caliente,  
mantenerse seguro.



Keep  Keep  
WARM SAFE



Massachusetts Department of Fire Services  
Departamento de Servicios de Incendios de Massachusetts

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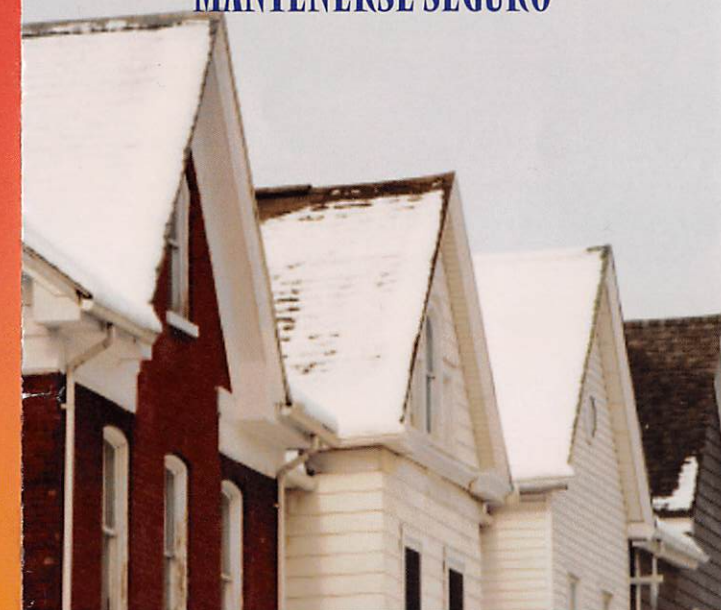


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Keep  Keep  
WARM SAFE

MANTENERSE CALIENTE  
MANTENERSE SEGURO



## A special home heating safety guide

from Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, Stephen D. Coan

Una guía especial para calentar el hogar en forma segura  
del Jefe de Incendios del Estado de Massachusetts, Stephen D. Coan



# The ABCs of fire safety

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year, when you change the clocks.
- Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape plan.
- Practice home fire safety and set a good example for the children.

## Fireplaces and solid fuel stoves require supervision and care.

If you heat your home by burning solid fuels (coal, firewood, pellets), be very careful before, during, and after using these kinds of fuels.

- Have the chimney professionally cleaned every year.
- Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- You must get a building permit before installing a stove.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Dispose of the ashes in a metal container, with a lid, away from the house, garage, and porch.

## Space heaters need space.

Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, do so safely.

- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Always turn off when going to bed or leaving home.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in MA for home use.

## Danger: Many household items can catch fire easily.

Common flammable materials include curtains, rugs, clothing, furniture, magazines, papers, toys, and bedding. Always use common sense. Keep things that can catch fire three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and furnaces.

## Maintain natural gas equipment.

Natural gas is a safe and efficient way to cook, heat our homes, and make hot water.

- Have your furnace and water heater professionally checked every year.
- Do not use or store gasoline or painting supplies inside where they can be ignited by the pilot light.

Gas leaks can be dangerous. If you smell something like rotten eggs or you think there might be a leak:

- Move outdoors.
- Do not smoke or turn on or off electrical switches – sparks can cause an explosion.
- Dial 911 immediately.

## Maintain oil heating equipment.

Home heating with fuel oil is also safe and efficient.

- Have your furnace professionally serviced every year.
- Don't let the tank get below one-quarter.
- If the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house, call for service.

## Carbon Monoxide, the "silent killer"

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home.

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.
- Don't use the gas stove or oven for heat.
- Have furnaces and chimneys checked annually by a professional.
- Keep appliance vents and exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow and bushes.



# El ABC para no tener incendios y estar seguro

- Asegúrese de que hay alarmas y detectores de humo que funcionan en cada nivel de la casa incluyendo una afuera de los dormitorios.
- Pruebe las alarmas de humo y de monóxido de carbono una vez al mes y cambie las pilas dos veces al año, cuando cambie la hora.
- Tenga prácticas en el hogar para practicar el plan de escape de la casa.
- Practique la seguridad para no tener incendios en el hogar y sea un buen ejemplo para sus hijos.

## Las chimeneas y las estufas de combustible sólido requieren supervisión y atención.

Si usted calienta su hogar quemando combustibles sólidos (carbón, leña, perdigones), tenga cuidado antes, durante y después de usar estos tipos de combustibles.

- Limpie la chimenea profesionalmente todos los años.
- Asegúrese que la estufa esté aprobada por una agencia de evaluación nacional tal como Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- Obtenga un permiso para el edificio antes de instalar una estufa.
- Aleje todo lo que pueda arder a tres pies de distancia.
- Bote las cenizas en un envase de metal, con una tapa, lejos de la casa, del garaje y del porche.

## Los calentadores portátiles necesitan espacio.

Los fuegos causados por los calentadores portátiles son raros pero muchas veces son fatales. Si usted tiene que usar un calentador portátil, hágalo de forma segura.

- No use los calentadores portátiles como su fuente #1 de calentamiento.
- Aleje todo lo que pueda arder a tres pies de distancia.
- Use solamente cordones de extensión diseñados para equipo pesado.
- Apáguelos siempre cuando se vaya a la cama o cuando salga de la casa.
- Los calentadores portátiles de keroseno son ilegales en MA para el uso del hogar.

## Peligro:

### Muchos artículos domésticos pueden prender fuego fácilmente.

Los materiales comunes inflamables incluye: cortinas, alfombras, ropa, muebles, revistas, papeles, juguetes y ropa de cama. Use siempre sentido común. Mantenga las cosas que puedan prender fuego a tres pies de distancia de los calentadores portátiles, las chimeneas, los hornos y las estufas.

## Mantenga el equipo de gas natural.

El gas natural es una forma segura y eficaz para cocinar, calentar nuestros hogares, y para producir agua caliente.

- Chequee su horno y calentador de agua profesionalmente todos los años.
  - No use o almacene gasolina o suministros de pintura adentro donde puedan prender fuego con la luz del piloto.
- Los escapes de gas pueden ser peligrosos. Si usted huele algo como huevos podridos o si usted piensa que hay un salidero de gas:
- Salga al exterior.
  - No fume y no encienda o apague los conmutadores eléctricos – las chispas pueden causar una explosión.
  - Llame inmediatamente al 911.

## Mantenimiento del equipo de calentamiento.

Calentar la casa con combustible de aceite es también seguro y eficaz.

- Déle mantenimiento profesional a su calentador todos los años.
- No deje que el tanque llegue a tener menos de un cuarto.
- Llame para darle mantenimiento si el quemador de aceite emite humo u hollín.

## Monóxido de carbono, "el asesino silencioso"

El equipo de calefacción es la fuente principal de monóxido de carbono (CO) en el hogar.

- Instale alarmas de monóxido de carbono en todos los niveles de su hogar.
- No use la estufa o el horno de gas para calentarse.
- Chequee los hornos y las chimeneas anualmente con un profesional.
- Mantenga las aberturas de desahogo y los tubos de los gases limpios de nieve y maleza.