

MAKING YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE

- **Smoke Detectors:** There should be a minimum of one smoke detector on each floor located next to sleeping areas. Check smoke detectors monthly change batteries once a year, we recommend on the day you set your clock for day light savings time in the fall of each year.
- **Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** There should be one detector on each floor near combustible appliances (furnace, water heater, wood stoves, etc..) are located. Check the detectors monthly and change batteries annually..
- **Have an emergency plan for your family:** You should have a plan to evacuate your home if a fire, smoke, and/or carbon monoxide detectors active, or you smell propane. Designate evacuation routes and an area for family members to meet outside. If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended. Once out of the home never go back in the home until it is checked out by the fire department or other appropriate agency.
- **72 HOUR Emergency Supply Kits:** You should have one kit per family member of food, water, medicines, first aide, blankets, etc,.. stored in an area near or in your home to allow you and your family to survive a disaster without outside aid. Our most likely event is a large snow storm that lasts for a couple of days. These emergency supplies will help you handle these types of events.
- **Used Rags**
Many homes are lost each year because rags soaked with finishing oils or paint cleaners spontaneously combusted. Sometimes it is because people didn't know the extreme combustibility of these oily rags, sometimes it's because saving the rags for another days' work seemed like a good idea. Either way, it results in a home lost to fire. The only safe way to discard the rags is to place them in an airtight metal container filled with water. The rags need to be disposed of in this manner immediately after use and not piled up and perhaps forgotten. The rags should only be used once, not saved for re-use the next day.
- **Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.** GVFD 970-493-3353 or stop by on Mondays between 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WOOD STOVE AND FIREPLACES

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

To use them safely:

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should carry the Underwriter Laboratories UL stamp.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. **NEVER** break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

FURNACE HEATING

It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition each year. Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.

- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repair, inspect, or assume anything without a qualified furnace inspector.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system