



For Immediate Release

Cold Weather Tips

As the temperatures continue to drop, the San Antonio Fire Department would like you to keep the following safety tips in mind...

- Have your central heating system inspected and serviced prior to the season's first use.
- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect your chimney and fireplace annually for cracks, blockages and leaks. Have it cleaned and repaired as needed.
- Burn only seasoned hardwood in your fireplace. Trash, cardboard boxes and related items burn unevenly and may contain toxins.
- Be sure the flue (vent) is opened prior to lighting your fireplace.
- Do not use your stove to heat your home.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn-including furniture or curtains.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when lighting a space heater, pilot light or fireplace. Do not wear loose fitting clothing while performing this task.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when space heaters or fireplaces are in use.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors! They are your early warning device for a fire in your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and make sure everyone in your home knows the sound it makes.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors according to the manufacturer's instructions