

As we know, each season brings with it new risks. Though some of us may not want to admit it, winter gave us a preview on Halloween morning when our lawns were blanketed with snow! This prompted many to turn on the furnace for the first time (while some of us just cranked it up a notch), some hauled in and started the first load of fire wood, while still others made sure that their generators were in working order before winter hits us hard.



**Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department** wants all our residents to skate through winter with no inconveniences other than having to occasionally shovel the walk or scrape some ice off the windshields! That's why we ask that you share and discuss the following safety reminders with your household members, family and friends. And now... Let it snow!

**905 people die each winter in home fires. USFA**

#### HEATING:

- 🔥 Have your furnace inspected each year and keep all combustibles at a safe distance.
- 🔥 Make sure space heaters are turned off before you go to bed or leave the room.
- 🔥 Ensure that space heater has an auto shut off in case it tips over.
- 🔥 Nothing that is flammable/combustible should be within 3 feet of the heater.
- 🔥 Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year, keep your wood stove doors closed unless tending to the fire and keep anything that can burn a minimum of 3 feet away.

**Following Hurricane Irma, 13 children lost their lives due to carbon monoxide poisoning from improper use of gas generators. SK USA.**

#### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO):

- 🔥 Make sure all vents (dryer, furnace, stove, fireplace) are clear of snow or other blocking materials.
- 🔥 Use portable generators outdoors in ventilated areas away from all home doors, windows and vents.
- 🔥 Have your furnace inspected each year.
- 🔥 Install CO alarms in your home in a central location, outside of all sleeping areas and on all levels for early detection.
- 🔥 Warm your vehicle outside of the garage and be sure there is no snow blocking the exhaust.

**Home electrical fire deaths happen most often between midnight and 6am. USFA**

#### ELETRICAL:

- 🔥 Plug only one heat producing appliance (space heater, coffee maker, curling iron, etc...) into a wall outlet at a time.
- 🔥 Never use an extension cord with a heat producing appliance.
- 🔥 Do not tuck cords under carpets or rugs.
- 🔥 Be sure light bulbs are the proper wattage for the appliance in which you are using them.

Do you need your smoke alarms checked or the batteries changed? Request help from our duty crews here: <https://www.gtmetrofire.org/public-education/safe-neighborhood-campaign/>