

February 2023



Winter fire safety



Fireplace safety

Winter electrical safety

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips:

1. Don't overload outlets. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

2. Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed *far away* from flammable items. Remember that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

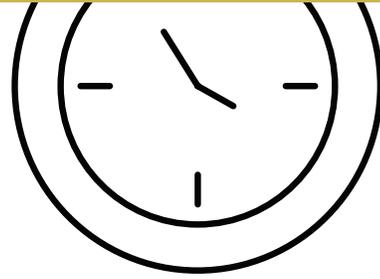


4. Use portable generators safely. Unfortunately, winter storms can cause damage and prolonged power outages, which means you may choose a portable generator to power your home. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, *before* you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area *outside* your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.



Scholarship and Washington Youth Tour applications are due by February 15th! Find details at www.nolinrecc.com.

FIREPLACE SAFETY



- The chimney should be checked annually by a professional.
- Safety screens should be installed to reduce the risk of burns.
- Put fireplace tools and accessories out of a young child's reach. Also, remove any lighters and matches.
- Talk with children as early as possible about the dangers of fires and the heat coming from them.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.

