



WINTER COLD & SAFETY TIPS



1

SCHEDULE A CHIMNEY CLEANING

Have wood-burning chimneys cleaned by a professional to reduce the chance of a chimney fire. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and place outdoors no less than 10 feet from any nearby building.

2

INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS AND KEEP IN WORKING ORDER

Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in each bedroom, and smoke detectors on each floor in homes. Test detectors regularly and replace the batteries yearly. Replace any detector that is over 10 years old.

3

ENSURE WINDOWS OPEN PROPERLY

Each room should have two possible exits in case of fire.

4

PRACTICE SAFE USE OF PORTABLE HEATERS

Check power cords for cracks or frayed wiring. Determine shut-off switch functions properly. Use only one portable heater per outlet, and never use an extension cord with a portable heater. Do not store combustible material within three feet of a portable heater. Keep young children away from space heaters and avoid wearing loose clothing that can be easily ignited. When using a fuel-burning appliance in a bedroom, provide adequate ventilation to prevent build-up of carbon monoxide.

5

DETERMINE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE IN WORKING ORDER

Check expiration dates on fire extinguishers that are placed in easily accessible locations on each floor of the home, and in the trunk of a motor vehicle.

6

INSULATE WATER PIPES EXPOSED TO FREEZING TEMPERATURES

When water freezes it expands causing pipes to crack which could lead to severe water damage in or around the home. Ensure shut-off valves are set.

7

DO NOT SMOKE CIGARETTES OR CIGARS INDOORS

Keep ashes and cigarette butts in metal container stored outside away from structures. Note: The SFD does not condone smoking - only safe disposal practices of hot waste.

8

USE CAUTION INSTALLING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND LIGHTS

Avoid accessing roof when snow or ice is present. Enlist assistance to help prevent accident or injury. Inspect electrical wires for cracks or damage. Replace lights if defects are found.

9

STORE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD SUPPLIES AND WATER

In event of power outage or inclement weather, keep extra food supplies and water at home and in vehicles. Keep a blanket in the trunk of motor vehicles for use if stranded.

10

CHECK ON ELDERLY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS