North Penn Volunteer Fire Company
141 South Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454
(215) 699-4337 • Matthew.Traynor@NorthPennFire.com

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

1 in 7 home fires and **1 in 5** home fire deaths involve heating equipment. Every **24 seconds**, a fire department responds to a fire in the United States. Every **43 minutes,** a home fire injury occurs.

- Anything that can burn must be at least 3 feet away from heating equipment like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Keep a 3-foot "kid-free" safety zone around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Turn off portable heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop embers from coming into the room.
- Let ashes cool before putting them in a metal container and storing them at least 10 feet away from your home or deck.
- Plug portable heaters directly into the outlet. Do not use extension cords with space heaters.
- Purchase a space heater that has an automatic shut off. If they tip over, it will turn off.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year by a qualified professional.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poison gas. In the United States, **more than 150 people** are killed every year from accidental CO poisoning. This does not even include those killed by succumbing to poisonous gas involved in a fire. These incidents are caused by faulty, improperly used, or incorrectly vented, fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. We would like to remind our neighbors to:

- Install and test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Know the difference in the sounds between a smoke alarm activation, CO alarm activation and low battery chirp.
- Keep vents clear of snow and ice.

Fire Engines carry a limited supply of water. Fire is extremely fast. For conditions to improve, water needs to be applied quickly. Fire fighters must establish a water supply to keep our neighbors safe. We need your help.

- Please clear a 3-foot radius around fire hydrants with a path to the street. This is not only during snowfall. Make sure the hydrant near your house has at least 36 inches of clearance with brush, fencing, landscaping and other materials.

Chief Matthew J Traynor
North Penn Vol. Fire Co.
141 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454

North Penn Vol. Fire Company
Protecting North Wales and
Lower Gwynedd Since 1888

Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

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Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

1 in every 7 home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths involves heating equipment.

3 feet

Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.

Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month.**

Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Fire is Everyone's Fight® | NFPA®

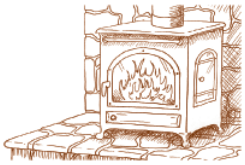
For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit **www.usfa.fema.gov/winter** and **www.nfpa.org/winter.**

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

NFPA
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

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When Seconds Count...

After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.