



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue

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PUT A FREEZE TO HEATING HAZARDS THIS WINTER

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Jan. 3, 2012) – As temperatures dip below freezing early this week, Marion County Fire Rescue reminds citizens to practice safe heating to avoid potential hot hazards in the home.

Fireplace and Chimney Safety

- Use only seasonal woods.
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more evenly and cause less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, Christmas trees or trash.
- Keep the area around a fireplace clean and free from flammables, such as home furnishings.
- Hire a licensed and insured chimney sweeper to clean and inspect your chimney and fireplace.

Space Heater Safety

- Turn off space heaters when you are not in the room and when you go to sleep.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from combustibles, children and pets.
- Place space heaters on a flat, level surface where they can't fall or break open.
- Purchase space heaters that automatically shut off should the heater tip over.
- Don't use extension cords unless absolutely necessary.
- Check cords and wires periodically to ensure that they have not frayed or eroded.
- Exercise extra caution when using a carbon monoxide-producing heater indoors.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

- Choose a carbon monoxide alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors if the carbon monoxide alarm sounds. Remove your vehicle 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.
- Only use generators in a well-ventilated location that is outdoors and away from windows and doors.

Smoke Alarms

- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year.
- Test and inspect each smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it's working properly.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from your smoke alarms because you will likely forget to replace it.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home, inside every sleeping area and in common areas such as hallways and living rooms.
- Brainstorm a fire escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year, identifying two exits from every room and establishing a safe meeting place outside. ###

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"