

It's winter! The days are shorter, the temperature is lower and fog is a common sight for much of January and February. Did you know that this time of year can be the busiest for many fire departments?

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) over 60,000 house fires occur each year due to home heating equipment. The highest percentage of those house fires is caused by portable heaters and wood burning stoves. But even though the numbers are high, these are *preventable* fires. Here's what you can do to be fire-safe this winter:

- **Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from all heating equipment (woodstove, portable heater, furnace)**
- **Do not use your oven to heat your home.**
- **Portable space heaters should be turned off before you leave your home and before going to bed.**
- **Allow fireplace ashes at least 72 hours to cool down before disposing of them.**
- **Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.**
- **Install smoke alarms and check monthly!**

Contact Clovis Fire Department for further information on Home Fire Safety, 324-2200. We want you to have a safe and wonderful winter.

Its' not about saving lives;
It's about saving *your* life

