



SAFETY EDUCATOR

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WINTER PREPAREDNESS

CHECK IT OUT!

Review Preparedness Skills for your Home and Family in our **September Safety Educator** Issue.



Calling ALL 3rd Grade Students to participate in the 3rd Annual Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest!

[Click Here For Details](#)

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One of the primary concerns during the winter is the weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communication services to your home sometimes for days at a time. Communication lines can be cut off, and access to emergency and medical services may be severely limited once extreme weather hits a region. Know the terms used to describe changing winter weather conditions and what actions to take.

Winter Weather Advisory:

Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch:

Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning:

Life-threatening, severe

winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. It's important to know what to do before, during, and after a winter storm:

Before the next winter storm approaches, add the following supplies to your emergency kit:

- Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways.
- Sand to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.



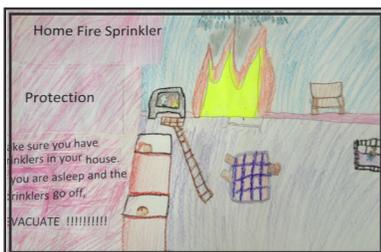
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, (link→) [keep a disaster supplies kit your vehicle.](#)
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- Create or update your Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

Learn More:

- www.readynh.gov
- www.ready.gov
- www.nfpa.org

JANUARY: Home Fire Sprinkler Protection ~ Hannah Kraus

Hannah Kraus of Hills Garrison School in Hudson, NH would like to remind citizens on the importance of Home Fire Sprinkler Protection. Fires are fast. They can go from a tiny flame to total destruction in as little as three minutes. Fire sprinklers can suppress and often extinguish a fire before the fire department arrives, giving your family time to escape. Including fire sprinklers in your new home is a great idea that can save the lives of your family. Thank you Hannah for this important reminder!



Want to learn more about sprinklers? Visit: www.homefiresprinklers.org



HOME HEATING SAFETY



Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Please follow these simple steps to prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

1. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
2. Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
3. Never use your oven to heat your home.
4. Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
5. Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
6. Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
7. Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
8. Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
9. Test smoke alarms monthly.

www.nfpa.org

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS: A Family Lesson Activity on Safety

Children need to learn that space heaters pose a number of hazards.

- Tipping can start a fire.
- Burns can be caused by contact with the hot space heater.
- Electrical fires can be caused by overloaded, frayed or defective cords and outlets.

Space Heater Facts:

* Space heaters were involved in 32% of home

heating fires.

- * Fixed or portable space heaters are involved with 4 out of 5 heating fire deaths.
- * Only adults should plug in or move a heater.
- * Heaters should always have an automatic shut-off function in case they tip over.

ACTIVITY:

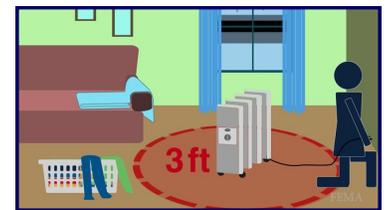
1. REVIEW the many ways portable space heaters can be hazardous.

2. VISUAL PRACTICE:

Set up a "pretend space heater" (i.e. a chair). Mark a danger zone of approximately 3 feet around the chair using masking tape on the floor. Have children stay out of the "DANGER ZONE" and have them look out for each other and items that are flammable throughout the day.

3. Watch the Safety Video (clicking on the graphic)

Video: Courtesy of www.fema.gov (clicking on the graphic below)



www.cpsc.org

FIREPLACE SAFETY



Use a non-combustible container with tight lid to dispose of fireplace ashes.

- Never burn garbage, rolled newspapers, charcoal or plastic in the fireplace.
- Never use gasoline or any liquid accelerant to help start a fire.
- Keep small children and pets away from the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Don't close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- When cleaning the fireplace, store ashes in a non-combustible container with a tightly fitting lid and place the container away from the house.

Check out this [FEMA video series](#) on how to keep your home fireplace and family safe this winter heating season.



GENERATOR SAFETY: A Must In 2015

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, and heavy snow falls can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator as a temporary solution without knowing the risks. **Generators create carbon monoxide.** You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances and equipment are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO produced by idling cars. Infants, elderly people, and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible. Be smart, be safe.

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
- One generator produces as much CO as hundreds of cars. CO from a generator is deadly and can incapacitate and kill you within minutes.

LINKS TO LEARN MORE:

▶ www.nh.gov/co

▶ www.nfpa.org

▶ www.usfa.gov



WINTER ICE SAFETY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

NH Fish and Game suggests that before you venture out onto any frozen pond or lake to ice fish, snowmobile, ski or snowshoe play it safe by following these important guidelines for ice safety:

- NEVER go on the ice alone. Have a cell phone handy in case of an emergency.
- It is not advisable to drive vehicles onto the ice.
- If on foot, carefully assess ice safety before venturing out by using an ice chisel or auger to determine ice thickness and condition.
- Continue to do this as you get further out on to the ice, because the ice thickness **will not be uniform** throughout the body of water.
- Though all ice is potentially dangerous, the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., offers a "rule of thumb" on ice thickness: **There should be a minimum of six inches of hard ice before individual foot travel, and eight to ten inches of hard ice for snow machine or All-Terrain Vehicle travel.**
- Remember: **THICK ICE DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN SAFE ICE!** Ice can be thick, but not strong due to varying weather conditions. Weak ice is formed when warming trends break down ice, then the slushy surface re-freezes.
- Be especially careful of areas with current, such as inlets, outlets and spring holes, where the ice can be dangerously thin.
- Stay off the ice along the shoreline if it is cracked or squishy. Don't go on the ice during thaws.
- Watch out for thin, clear or honeycombed ice. Dark snow and ice may also indicate weak spots.
- Small bodies of water tend to freeze thicker. Rivers and lakes are more prone to wind, currents and wave action that weaken ice.
- Don't gather in large groups or drive large vehicles onto the ice.
- **If you do break through the ice, don't panic.**



Visit NH Fish & Game to learn more on NH Outdoor Safety!



1. Move or swim back to where you fell in, where you know the ice was solid.
2. Lay both arms on the unbroken ice and kick hard. This will help lift your body onto the ice.
3. Carry a set of ice picks; they can help you pull yourself out if you do fall through the ice; wear them around your neck or put them in an easily accessible pocket.
4. Once out of the water, roll away from the hole until you reach solid ice.

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We're on the Web!
www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



Safety Educator



Every year it is predicable that the outside temps will drop and the cold north wind will blow during the winter months. Many NH Citizens remain unprepared for the winter and many homes are not prepared to keep the coldness out. When temperatures drop significantly below normal, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Take preventive action by creating and/or adding supplies to your preparedness kit both in your home and in your car; ensure that you are following best practices when it comes to Home Heating Safety and Generator Safety. When enjoying the great outdoors on the ice, follow the recommendations provided by NH Fish and Game. This newsletter brings many important reminders for you and your family to be warm and safe this winter. Should you have further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal for assistance.

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal

Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!



January 2015 Safety Educator Website Special Feature:

Build a Kit

You're on a mission! Go through different locations with Gayle and her friends to find what you need for an emergency kit. Will you pick the correct items? Have fun and build a checklist along the way. Hurry!

Your family is counting on you!



Click on photo or link below to visit other Kid Friendly and Parent/Educator Approved websites:



DangerRangers.com



Smokeybear.com/kids



sparky.org



firefighterdayna.com



ready.gov/kids