

FACT:

In 2006, heating equipment was involved in an estimated:

- 64,100 reported U.S. home structure fires
- with associated losses of 540 civilian deaths
- 1,400 civilian injuries
- \$943 million direct property damage.

For more information contact:

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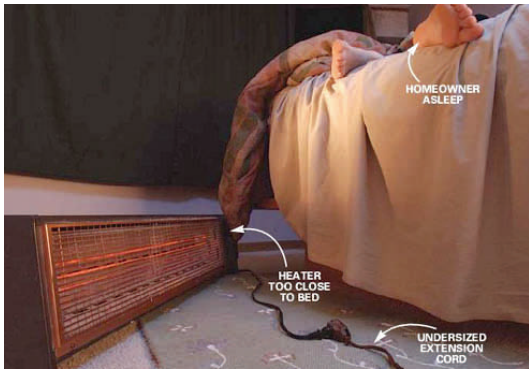


Heating



Promotion, Prevention, Protection





Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

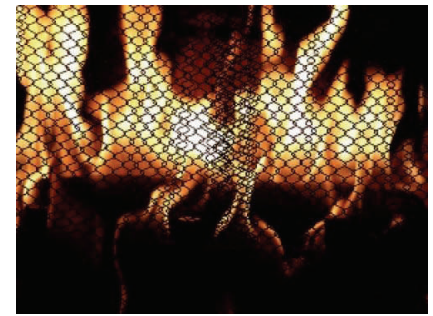
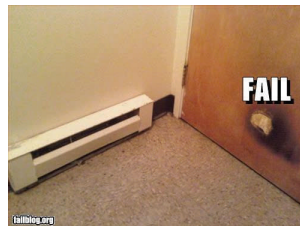
- In 2006, heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 21% of home fire deaths.
- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (30%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2006.
- In 2003-2006, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) and deaths (46%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding. These statistics exclude fires that were confined to a chimney, flue, fuel burner or boiler.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable heater.
- Only use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Never use your oven for heating.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.



- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving a room or going to bed.
- For fuel burning space heaters, always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.



- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a tightly covered metal container, which is kept at least 10 feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Douse and saturate with water.
- For wood burning stoves, install chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not attempt to light the appliance. Turn off all the controls and open doors and windows. Call a gas service person.
- Test smoke alarms and CO alarms at least monthly.