

Cold Weather Safety

TOP 10 COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOME

Keep fire extinguishers on-hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. Inspect extinguishers monthly and service annually.

Don't forget your furry friends. Bring pets indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.

Remember the three feet rule. If you're using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable at least three feet away.

Supervise. Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed. Never leave a candle unattended.

Don't catch fire! If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.

Protect your pipes. Keep the thermostat high enough to avoid freezing temperatures indoors, day and night. Run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.

Check the chimney. Have the chimney cleaned and inspected every year.

The kitchen is for cooking. Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.

Use generators outside. Never operate a generator inside your home, including in the basement or garage.

Knowledge is power. Don't hook a generator up to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.

American Red Cross

