

FIRE SAFE

OREGON FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN



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DECEMBER

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN

Home heating is one of the top causes of home fires in Oregon, leading to roughly 465 structure fires in 2021. Accidents happen, but with some planning, proper maintenance, and fire safe strategies, many of these fires can be prevented. This month we encourage our partners to educate your communities on the importance of heating their home safely throughout the winter months.

TIS' THE SEASON FOR FIRE SAFETY

DECEMBER



NOTABLE DATES

- **December 1** - World AIDS Day
- **December 18 - 26** - Hanukkah
- **December 21** - First Day of Winter
- **December 25** - Christmas
- **December 26 - January 1** - Kwanzaa
- **Universal Human Rights Month**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

December 14, 2022

Effective messaging for Home Heating:
[Register Here](#)



RESOURCES

[Electric Blanket Safety messaging from UL](#)

[Heating Safety Toolkit from NFPA](#)

[Electrical and Heating Safety from the OSFM](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

503-934-8228 | OSFM 3565 TRELSTAD AVE SE SALEM, OR 97317

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Dec 4 - 10: Home Heating

With the drop in temperature, it's time to prepare for the winter ahead. This is the time when many Oregon homes fire up their wood stoves and turn on the space heater. It's important to remind everyone to reduce the risk of home fires and take the necessary steps to keep their families warm safely.

- Use heating equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Keeping things that burn such as paper, curtains, bedding, and furniture at least three feet away from all heating equipment.
- Much like in the kitchen, there should always be a three-foot "kid- and pet-free zone" around all heating equipment.

Risk of carbon monoxide poisoning:

In the home, heating equipment is a potential source of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn. Exposure to CO, either in smaller amounts over a long period of time, or larger amounts in a shorter amount of time, can be fatal. Having a working CO alarm can provide the early detection needed to identify a problem and take steps to keep everyone in the home safe.

December 11 - 17: Portable Space Heaters

Portable space heaters are a common and convenient way to warm up a room, but can also pose a fire risk if not used appropriately. Many home fires begin from a space heater knocked over, left unattended, or covered with clothes or blankets.

- Give heaters space. Leave a 3-foot zone clear.
- Plug portable heaters directly into the wall socket. Do not use extension cords or power strips with space heaters.
- Turn off and unplug space heaters before leaving a room and especially before leaving the house.
- Use newer, portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off that will shut off if tipped over.
- Clean them each year before use and check for product recalls.
- Make sure fuel-burning heaters are designed for indoor use and are properly ventilated.



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December 18 - 24: Wood and pellet burning heating equipment

For some, this season means cozying up by the fire for holiday movie marathons, but before the binge watching begins, ensure the stage is set for safe viewing.

- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.
- Keep chimneys free of debris.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood.
- Give the wood or pellet stove some space. Create a three-foot safety zone.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from escaping.
- Place ashes in metal container, soak with water, and keep them at least 10 feet away from the home or anything that can burn. Dispose of ash only after it has cooled completely.

December 25 - 31: Heating Blankets

Climbing into a warm cozy bed or snuggling up with a preheated blanket is another way to beat the cold, but it doesn't come without some risk. Like any other heat source, electric blankets and heating pads should be used safely and with caution.

- Always read and use the manufacturers instruction.
- Use the blanket to heat up the bed and then turn it off before going to sleep.
- Ensure the blanket is in good condition and throw out blankets or heating pads that show signs of damage.
- Never fold an electric blanket while in use and avoid putting anything over the top of a heating blanket. A heating blanket should be rolled to store instead of folded.
- Only use blankets that have been approved by nationally recognized testing agencies.

