



Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

Community Relations / Public Education Branch

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Alternative Heater Safety

Cooking related fires are the number one cause of residential fires in the United States. However, during the months of December, January, and February alternative heating sources take over the number one spot. Some of the most common alternative heating sources are portable space heaters, fire places, and wood-burning stoves.

In 2007, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage. The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and your community and increase your survival rate dramatically.

Alternative Heater Safety Life-Saving Tips

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Install a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home
- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from the heat source
- Plug portable heaters directly into the outlet. Never use an extension cord on a portable heater
- Have fireplaces, woodstoves, and furnaces checked and serviced by a professional at least once a year
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.
- If you use kerosene heaters, use only the recommended fuel and make sure the kerosene heater is allowed indoors.
- Always refuel outdoors safely away from structures and allow heater to completely cool before refueling.
- Never overload a fireplace or wood stove and use fire screens on fire places
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground; have an escape plan already worked out. Remember Get out and Stay out

Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires in the United States
- Deaths due to fires caused by heating a home are particularly preventable
- Having a working smoke detector reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186