



## Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

*It's not too early to begin preparing for the winter season. Review these 10 tips to get ahead of the winter freeze.*

- Furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- Chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. Creosote build-up has been checked. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service should be done at least once a year.)
- Wood for the fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.
- Fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- A covered metal container is available to dispose of cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- Children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off.
- Portable space heaters are plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout the home as a reminder to turn-off portable heaters before bed or when not at home.)
- Smoke alarms have been tested and are working properly. (Smoke alarms should be on every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- Carbon monoxide alarms have been tested and are working properly. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)