



Keep fire safety in mind as temperatures drop!

North Frontenac Township January 12, 2009 As Ontario prepares to be blasted by chilling Arctic temperatures this week, North Frontenac Township Fire Department is urging the public to keep fire safety in mind when taking steps to deal with colder winter weather,

The winter months traditionally see more fires in Ontario homes related to heating equipment and appliances. People need to pay close attention to potential fire hazards related to the use of fuel-burning appliances, space heaters and even block heaters in their vehicles,

"Block heaters should be treated just as any other piece of electrical equipment around the home," explains Fire Chief Steve Riddell. "Cords and connections should be in good repair and caution should be used to ensure circuits are not overloaded."

Important fire safety tips for cold weather include the following:

- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys..
- Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep intake and exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide build-up from inefficient combustion.. Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas..
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery, and clothing.
- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.

North Frontenac Township Fire Department reminds everyone that the Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Failure to comply with this law can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$100,000. If you require more information about smoke alarms or fire safety, please contact Fire Chief Riddell 613-479-0072 or 613-279-2468..