



*City of Glendale*  
**FIRE DIVISION**  
Office of Public Information  
[www.fire.ci.glendale.ca.us](http://www.fire.ci.glendale.ca.us)



# *Press Release*

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## **STAY SAFE WHILE STAYING WARM**

As the colder months approach people start using heating equipment again which has not been used in months. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths so chimneys, portable heaters and gas appliances pose a huge threat when not cleaned or used correctly.

Before the colder season starts, have a professional inspect and clean your chimney. Remaining creosote from last year's use is highly flammable and can block smoke from exiting. Ensure that when you do light a fire, that there is at least three feet of clearance around the fireplace and there is a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. These safety measures are so important because half of home heating fire deaths were caused by heating equipment spreading fire to nearby materials. Make sure the fire is completely out before sleeping or leaving the home.

Portable space heaters are very popular for small spaces, but as with fireplaces, you must ensure there is at least three feet of clearance surrounding them. They can burn nearby materials or warm them to the point of fire. Only purchase space heaters that switch off when tipped over and always unplug them when leaving a room.

Only use heating equipment according to manufactures guidelines. Never use an oven to warm the house. They are not intended for this purpose and pose a great threat of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless gas which is why it so important to have **carbon monoxide detectors** throughout your home. As of July 1, 2011, all homes are required by California State Law to have them installed along with smoke alarms. Carbon monoxide poisoning displaces the oxygen in the blood so in the initial stages of poisoning will cause headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion. If you unexpectedly experience these symptoms, leave the house immediately and call the fire department.

Information from National Fire Protection Association.