

## The Silent Killer



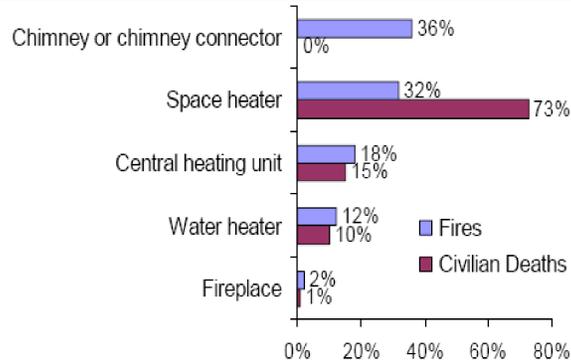
- Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.
- Install CO alarms (labeled by a recognized laboratory) inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area. If bedrooms are spaced apart, each area will need a CO alarm.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms.
- Only use barbecue grills – which can produce CO – outside. Never use them in the home, garage or near building openings.
- If your CO alarm sounds immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door, and call for help. Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel say it is ok.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries or other trouble indicators. Call a qualified technician to determine the source of the CO. Have equipment serviced immediately.

## Heating Equipment Facts & Figures

- In 2005; U.S. Fire Departments responded to 62,200 home fire that involved heating equipment. These fires caused:
  - \* 670 civilian deaths
  - \* 1,550 civilian injuries
  - \* \$909 million in property damage
- Heating equipment accounted for 16% of home fires and 22% of fire deaths.
- In a three year period ending in 2005 the leading cause of home heating fires was equipment getting too close to things that burn, such as clothing, furniture, mattress, and bedding.

Almost half of home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.

### U.S. Home Heating Fires by Equipment Involved: 2005



San Bernardino County Fire Department  
 620 South "E" Street  
 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0179  
 (909) 386-8400

# Heating & Candle Safety



San Bernardino County  
 Fire Department  
 Community Safety Division



## Reduce The Risk when using Candles

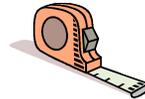
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Extinguish all candles when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Keep candles at least three (3) feet away from anything that can burn like bedding, curtains, blinds, piles of clothing, newspapers, and magazines. Be sure to monitor them carefully.
- Store candles, matches, and lighters up high and out of reach of children. Preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Don't let children play with candles, dripping wax or with combustible materials near candles.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a burning candle.
- Don't allow children or teens to burn candles in their bedroom.
- If your electrical service goes out, use flashlights and battery powered lamps when possible.



- Avoid using candles for emergency lighting.
- Don't carry lit candles.
- Don't use a candle for light when adding kerosene or any flammable fuel to a heater, lantern, or other device. The flame could ignite the fumes.

## Heating Safety

- When using electrical heating equipment make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory.



- Always give heating equipment space — 3 feet circumference from anything that is combustible.



- Plug your equipment into a dedicated plug, never into an extension cord and make sure to turn off equipment when the room is unoccupied.



- In a fireplace or wood stove, use only dry, seasoned wood to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires generally.
- Never use flammable liquid to start a fire or use artificial logs in wood stoves.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Make sure ashes cool before disposing them into a METAL container. Keep the container a safe distance for your home.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, vents are clear and unobstructed, and exit point is properly sealed.
- Annually inspect all heating equipment including your chimney to make sure they are in proper working order.

