NOVEMBER
HOME HEATING SAFETY

STAY WARM. STAY SAFE.



As the weather gets colder, we rely more on our heating systems, fireplaces and space heaters. Follow these simple safety tips to keep your home warm and reduce the risk of a fire or carbon monoxide (CO) incident.

St. Charles Fire Department

PREVENT • PROTECT • SERVE

HAVE YOUR FURNACE INSPECTED

- Schedule an annual professional inspection and maintenance.
- Replace or clean your furnace filter regularly (typically every 1–3 months).



KEEP SPACE HEATERS SAFE

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Plug them directly into a wall outlet (avoid extension cords and power strips).
- Never leave space heaters unattended.



USE FIREPLACES SAFELY

- Have your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected annually.
- Keep combustible items (decorations, firewood, etc.) at least 3 feet away from the fireplace.
- Use a sturdy screen or glass doors.



INSTALL SMOKE & CO ALARMS

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working (test monthly).
- Install CO alarms, especially near sleeping areas.



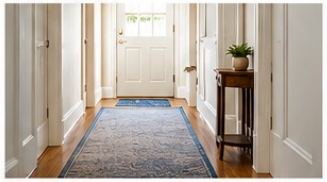
AVOID DANGEROUS ALTERNATIVES

- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.
- Never use generators, grills or outdoor heating equipment inside your home, garage or enclosed spaces.



KEEP EXITS CLEAR

- Make sure hallways, doorways and stairways are free of clutter.
- Keep an easy path to get out in an emergency.



KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF A PROBLEM

If you notice any of the following, get to fresh air and call 911 immediately:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness

REMEMBER

IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS...

- ✓ Do not use a phone.
- ✓ Do not turn on lights or appliances.
- ✓ Leave the building immediately.
- ✓ Call 911 from a safe location.