

STAY SAFE WHILE STAYING WARM!



Fort McMurray winters bring bitter cold temperatures. Stay safe while using portable heaters, furnaces and fireplaces by following safety precautions to ensure that your home is not heated because of a fire!

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

- When purchasing a portable heater ensure that it has been certified by a recognized regulatory body, such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Space heaters should be placed on a level, hard and non-combustible surface (avoid carpets or rugs).
- Ensure the space heater is placed 1 metre from any combustible objects, such as curtains, bedding or blankets.
- Do not leave children or pets unattended around a space heater.
- Always turn off space heaters before leaving the room or going to bed.

Tips:

- Ensure your space heater is equipped with an automatic cut-off device. This will shut off the heater if tipped over.
- Fuel burning space heaters (kerosene or gas) should be inspected annually. Ensure you are using the proper grade of fuel source for your unit and that it is cleaned regularly.

FURNACES

- Furnaces should be inspected by a qualified and registered contractor at least once a year.
- Keep the area around your furnace clear.
- Each month, inspect your furnace for the following:
 - Filters — Change and/or clean according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - Vents — Look for any signs of rust, blockages or soot. If found, consult with a qualified technician.
 - The flame should be sharp and blue. If the flame is yellow, consult with a qualified technician.

FIREPLACES

- Inspect and clean your fireplaces, vents and chimneys regularly.
- Check for rust or creosote: a dark substance that forms in the flue. If a buildup of creosote is made, it can catch fire.
- Observe any excessive heat on the walls above your fireplace. This could be a sign of improper chimney installation, and a potential fire hazard.
- Keep combustible objects away from your wood stove or fireplace and always use a properly fitted screen to cover the fireplace opening. Floors and walls should be protected with noncombustible shields.
- Keep a heat-tempered glass or metal fireplace screen in place.
- Dispose of fireplace ashes in a closed metal can and store outside.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood and never use combustible liquid to start the fire.
- Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

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