

# FREEZE out Winter Fires



Half of all home heating fires occur in **December, January** and **February**.



It's important to know that portable generators emit **carbon monoxide (CO)**, a poisonous, deadly gas.

Use portable generators outdoors in **well-ventilated areas** at least **20 ft** from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open. Place generators so that **exhaust fumes** are directed away from the building. Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never **refuel** a generator while it is hot.



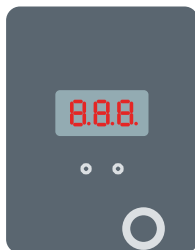
Have a qualified professional **clean** and **inspect** your chimney and vents every year.



During and after a snowstorm, make sure **vents** for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are **clear** of snow build-up.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 6** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Often called the **invisible killer**, carbon monoxide 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 can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each **sleeping area** and on **every level** of the home. Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a **fresh air** location outdoors or by an open window or door.

Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for.

**Call** for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.



Only use gas or charcoal grills **outside**. They can produce CO.



Keep anything that can burn at least **3 feet from any heat source** like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (ex. space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered **metal** container.

Keep it outside at least **10 ft** from your home and any nearby buildings.



If you need to warm a vehicle, **remove** it from the garage immediately after starting it.

Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open.

Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.



Never use your oven to **heat** your home.