

JANUARY 2009

KEEP YOUR HOME
SAFE AND WARM



EMERGENCY
MESSAGES ARE
BROADCAST ON:

WFMD 930 AM

WFRE 99.9 FM

WAFY KEY 103.1FM

FCG-TV CHANNEL 19

FCPS-TV CHANNEL 18

CITY OF FREDERICK
CHANNEL 99

NBC 25 WHAG TV

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:

- Frederick County Government preparedness website at www.co.frederick.md.us/emergency
- Call the Frederick County Department of Emergency Preparedness at 301-600-1746
- E-mail at Emergency-Management@fredco.md.net

Follow these safety tips from CDC, the National Fire Protection Association, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to prevent injuries and deaths related to heating your home.

Install a smoke alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test it monthly. If it has a 9-volt battery, change the battery twice a year.

Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. If your alarm sounds, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that you press the reset button, call emergency services (911 or your local fire department), and immediately move to fresh air (either outdoors or near an open door or window). Know the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms, get fresh air right away and contact a doctor for proper diagnosis.

Make sure heating equipment is installed properly. Have a trained specialist inspect and tune up your heating system each year.

Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, including bedding, furniture, and clothing. Never drape clothing over a space heater to dry.

Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.

If you use a kerosene heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never put gasoline in a kerosene heater—it could explode. Before you refuel the heater, turn it off and let it cool down. Refuel outside only.

When using a kerosene heater, keep a door open to the rest of the house or open a window slightly. This will reduce the chance of carbon monoxide build-up in the room.

Have your fireplace chimney and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Open the flue and use a sturdy fireplace screen when you have a fire. Burn only untreated wood; never burn paper or pine branches—pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a neighbor's roof, or nearby trees.

If you use a wood-burning stove, have the chimney connection and flue checked each year. Make sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and coals.

Never use your range or oven to heat your home, even for a short time. **Maintain at least a half tank of gas** during the winter season.



PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

- **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**

- **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
- **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. *Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.*
- **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.

- **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
- **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
- **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly.
- **Windshield wiper equipment** - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- **Install good winter tires.** Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. How-

ever, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

- **Maintain at least a half tank of gas** during the winter season.



PLACE A WINTER EMERGENCY KIT IN YOUR CAR THAT CONTAINS

- shovel
- windshield scraper
- small broom
- flashlight
- battery powered radio
- extra batteries
- water
- pocket knife
- necessary medications
- blanket(s)
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- fluorescent distress flag
- snack food
- matches
- first aid kit
- extra hats, socks and mittens