

Winter Heating Safety

With winter approaching, many homes will be using a variety of heating devices to keep warm for the next few months. Caution should be taken when using them. According to NFPA, nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February.

The Right Container for the Right Fuel and the Right Fuel for the Right Device

Using the wrong fuel for a heating device could be fatal. It is vital to store fuels in easy-to-identify, safety-approved containers. This will help ensure you use the correct fuel for your home heating devices and the best way to guard against fire or explosion.

Tips for Storing Fuels Safely



Safety-approved containers have several basic design qualities:

- Spring-loaded cap that closes automatically to prevent leakage.
- Spring tension cap also lifts slightly to off-gas internal vapor pressure
- Spout is designed with a flame-arrester screen to prevent outside fire from reaching gasoline inside the can.

It is **extremely dangerous** to carry or transport gasoline in the trunk of a car even when using a safety can. The vapors that build up inside the can may be released and build up inside the trunk possibly resulting in an explosion.

Safety Reminders When Operating Portable Heaters

- Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from other objects.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow five minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying to relight the pilot.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, leave the building. Call 9-1-1. Do not attempt to light the appliance.