

# Public Service Announcement

September 25, 2014

City of Edmonton

## Fire safety tips to keep you warm during the winter freeze

The weather may still be warm, but it's not too early to begin preparing your home for "heating season." To help protect yourself, your family and your neighbours, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services would like to remind residents of some fire safety tips for keeping warm during the winter freeze.

- Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional every 12 months.
- If you have a wood-burning fireplace, make sure the wood you are burning is dry and seasoned, and have a covered metal container on hand to dispose of cooled ashes. A qualified professional should check the condition of your chimney and vents, and look for creosote build-up at least once a year, and your fireplace should have a metal or heat-tempered glass screen.
- Keep children at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, oil stoves, space heaters, and candles.
- When using space heaters, ensure that they are plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) at least three feet from anything that can burn (bedding, paper, walls, clothing). Space heaters should also have an automatic shut off function.
- The fall is a great time to change the batteries and test your smoke alarms to make sure they are working properly. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms should be tested once a year.
- When using candles, remember to never leave a candle burning while you are asleep or when you are not home. Candles should be kept in an enclosed non-combustible container and should be kept away from anything that can ignite, such as paper, bedding, drapes or decorations.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow, so that in the event that it is needed it can be easily located.

If you experience a fire, leave the home immediately and call 911.

### For more information:

Visit [edmonton.ca/publicsafety](http://edmonton.ca/publicsafety)

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