



Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact
Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

From the Dispatch Department

The Three S's of Winter Prep: Season, Storm, Supplies.

Seasonal Maintenance is Critical

Have snow-removal equipment and the heating system serviced on an annual basis, which includes testing to make sure the heat is working throughout the home.

Insulate any pipes that are susceptible to freezing and unhook hoses from outdoor faucets. Plus, it's a good idea to locate your water shut-off valve and ensure it is in working order.

Storm Preparation is Important

Pay attention to local TV and radio stations for important weather updates.

Become familiar with how to trip the manual release on overhead garage door openers and have shovels ready ahead of the storm.

Make a family communication plan in case you're not together when the storm hits.

When a storm is imminent, move vehicles off the street.

Supplies are Crucial

Have bottled water and non-perishable foods, clothing and blankets, batteries and flashlights, snow shovels and other snow-removal equipment on-hand in the event of an extended power outage.

Keep a supply of rock salt, other ice melt or sand, in case the stores run out during a particular storm.

Don't forget your pets - bring them inside during bad weather.



Residents:

If you are not in our SwiftReach system and would like to be, you can either use the SwiftReach portal on the Cuyahoga Heights Village Website on the Police page or contact Dispatch Supervisor Barb Cash at the Police Department directly at 216-883-6800. The SwiftReach system is used to notify our residents and businesses, by telephone, of any emergency situations that may occur in Cuyahoga Heights. The telephone numbers you supply the Police Department are kept strictly confidential and are not given out to the public.