



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Prevention Of Fires Caused By Home Heating Sources

Nationwide, a residential fire occurs every 67 seconds.



There were about 472,000 fires in residential properties in 1992, resulting in 3,750 fire deaths.

FURNACE MAINTENANCE

- Check the filter once a month, change it when necessary, or at least twice a year.
- Do Not store combustible material near the furnace.
- Have the furnace inspected once a year and tested for leaks.

Make sure the furnace is vented to the outdoors. Inspect the chimney for debris that could plug it.

ELECTRIC HEATERS AND KEROSENE HEATERS

- Before buying a kerosene heater, make sure the local building and fire codes permit its use in residential structures. Also check your insurance policy to see if such use will affect the policy.
- Buy an approved heater that has been tested by the Underwriters Laboratories.
- Read the owners manual before operating the heater. Maintain the heater according to the manual.
- Do Not put heaters where people walk. Keep the heater 3 feet from combustible material such as draperies or furniture.
- Teach children to avoid the heater. The surface of some heaters can exceed 500 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Do Not leave a heater on when no one is at home or when you are asleep.
- For kerosene heaters, only use K1 kerosene. It has a .04 percent sulfur content by weight. Do Not use any other type of fuel. K2 kerosene is not recommended because it has a higher sulfur content, and improper use can pose a fire or explosion hazard. Only fill the heater when it is cool.
- Do Not use flammable solvents, aerosol sprays or lacquers near heaters.
- Do Not use the heater in the same room where flammable liquids are stored or in dusty environments.

- Do provide adequate ventilation for kerosene heaters. Follow the manufacturers directions. If there are none, open a window 1 square inch for each 1,000 BTU of the heaters rating.
- Regardless of the type of heating system you have, install and maintain smoke detectors on each level of the house.

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WOOD STOVE MAINTENANCE

- Select a good stove and have it properly installed.
- Locate the stove out of traffic and away from furniture and draperies.
- Do Not store combustible materials near the stove.
- Prevent creosote build up.
 - Do Not use wet or unseasoned wood.
 - Maintain a briskly burning fire.
 - Maintain a flue temperature above 250 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Inspect stove pipes and chimney flues each year before using the stove. Look for:
 - Cracked flue liners.
 - Broken or missing bricks.
 - Heavy creosote deposits.
 - Foreign material and bird nests.
- Thoroughly clean the flue and stovepipe of any soot or residues.
- Repair any damage before using.
- Frequently check the stovepipe and chimney for creosote buildup during the heating season.
- Properly dispose of wood ashes by storing them in a non-combustible metal container with a tight lid. Place the closed container on a non-combustible floor or on the ground, well away from all combustible materials.
- Warn children not to touch the stove or stand too close to it.