

Fire Safety During Winter Months

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.

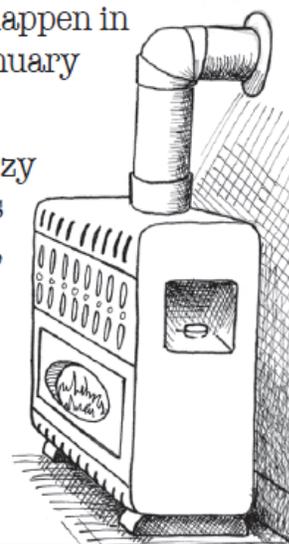
- ✚ Test all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.
- ✚ Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- ✚ Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- ✚ Be ready in case the power goes out. ***More on this on the following pages.***
- ✚ Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- ✚ Check on neighbours. Check on others who may need help.
- ✚ 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 1 metre away.
- ✚ Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

source: npfa.org

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

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.



Power Outages



Before a power outage

Make sure you have a good supply of batteries in a range of sizes for all your emergency needs. Have spares ready for your flashlights and radios as well as for your smoke detectors, clocks, and other appliances that run on battery backup.

- ⚡ Ensure that your flashlights and portable radios are in working order. Have battery operated candles with fresh batteries ready.
- ⚡ Charge power banks for cell phone use. Keep cellphone chargers in the car (make sure there are chargers for any different types of phones in your family)
- ⚡ Get a full tank of gas. Always fill up the tank before a big storm hits. Gas station pumps run on electricity, so if the power goes out gasoline will not be available. Don't get stuck with an empty tank!
- ⚡ If you have a landline, it's worth keeping an old corded phone in a closet to use in a power outage. Modern cordless phones will not work in a power outage. Having access to usable landline will help you conserve your cellphone battery.
- ⚡ Turn down the temperature in your fridge and freezer before a storm hits. If the power goes out, they will both stay cooler longer. Avoid opening the refrigerator doors.
- ⚡ Stock up on nonperishable foods. In the event of a long-term power outage, you may run out of fresh food. Stock up on nonperishable foods like nut butters, canned fruit and juices, granola bars and crackers. Don't forget the manual can opener.



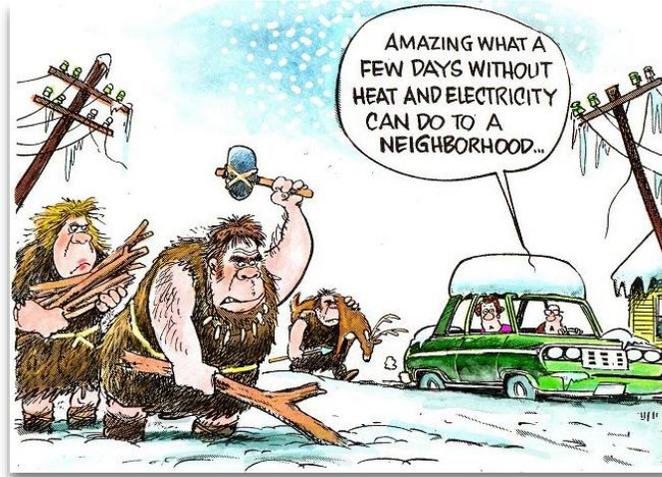
During a power outage

- ⚡ First, check whether the power outage is limited to your home. If your neighbours' power is still on, check your own circuit breaker panel or fuse box.
- ⚡ If your neighbours' power is also out, notify your electric supply authority.
- ⚡ Turn off all tools, appliances, and electronic equipment, and turn the thermostat(s) for the home heating system down to minimum to prevent damage from a power surge when power is restored.
- ⚡ Don't open your freezer or fridge unless it is absolutely necessary. A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours if the door remains closed.
- ⚡ Never use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heating equipment, or home generators indoors or in garages. They give off carbon monoxide. Because you can't smell or see it, carbon monoxide can cause health problems and is life-threatening. Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide detector. If it is hard-wired to the house's electrical supply, ensure it has a battery-powered back-up.

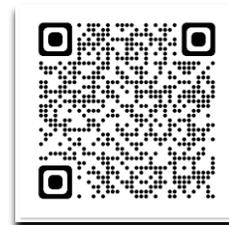
After a power outage

- ⚡ Give the electrical system a chance to stabilize before reconnecting tools and appliances. Turn the heating-system thermostats up first, followed in a couple of minutes by reconnection of the fridge and freezer. Wait 10 to 15 minutes before reconnecting all other tools and appliances.
- ⚡ Check food supplies in refrigerators, freezers, and cupboards for signs of spoilage. If a freezer door has been kept closed, food should stay frozen 24 to 36 hours, depending on the temperature. When food begins to defrost (usually after two days), it should be cooked; otherwise, it should be thrown out.
- ⚡ As a general precaution, keep a bag of ice cubes in the freezer. If you return home after a period of absence and the ice has melted and refrozen, there is a good chance that the food is spoiled. When in doubt, throw it out!
- ⚡ Reset your clocks, automatic timers, and alarms.
- ⚡ Restock your emergency kit so the supplies will be there when needed again.

source: gc.ca



Missed a new newsletter? Check out our website: <https://magnumfireprotection.com>





Christmas Tree Safety

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

FACTS

- ❗ **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ❗ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ❗ A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.

Picking the Tree. Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the Tree. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 5cm from the base of the trunk. Make sure the tree is at least one metre away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Lighting the Tree. Use lights that are only for indoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



from,
The Magnum Fire Protection Family