



# Smoke Signals

## A Life Safety Newsletter

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### City of Dallas

#### Carbon Monoxide:

##### The Silent Killer

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, cooking and heating equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Make note of these tips concerning CO:

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home.
- Follow manufacturers instructions for placement and height.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location.
- Remove cars from the garage to warm up. Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if the garage door is open.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.

### What is Causing our Homes to Burn?

#### Electrical Fire:

Still the most common cause of residential fires in Dallas. Remember not to use extension cords for permanent wiring and avoid overloading power strips and electrical plugs. If you use an extension cord for a space heater this winter, make sure it is a heavy duty one. Many older homes are not properly wired for today's modern appliances so be cautious in your use of electricity.

#### Unattended Cooking:

More home fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. If a pan fire begins on your stove, slide a lid over the top of the pan to suffocate the fire. Get everyone out and call 9-1-1 immediately.

#### Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials:

Discard cigarettes, cigars and pipes safely and com-

pletely. Never drop smoking materials in a trash can or out the car window. Make sure your smoking materials are extinguished by holding them under running water until they are cool to the touch. If you smoke, it is always best to smoke outside.

#### Playing with Fire:

Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start fires playing with matches and lighters... And are most likely to die in them. Never use matches or lighters as a source of amusement— children may imitate you. If you know of a juvenile who has shown tendencies to start fires, call 214-670-4312. Our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program can help you.

#### Cutting Torches:

Use caution when operating a cutting torch inside your home. Provide a minimum of one portable 2-A:20-B:C rated extinguisher within 30 feet of the location where hotwork is performed and continue to watch for embers at least 30 minutes after work is complete. Obtain a Welding and Cutting permit from the City of Dallas for hotwork that involves acetylene.



#### Cold Weather Safety:

The arrival of winter brings new safety concerns. Make a note of these cold weather hazards:

- Have your chimney or furnace checked by a professional. Install a spark arrestor on top of the chimney.
- Never leave candles unattended and remember to provide them with a sturdy, non-combustible base.
- Give your space heater at least 3 ft. of area free of combustibles.
- Keep fireplaces clear of combustibles like drapes and decorations.
- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

Does your home have a working smoke alarm?

If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be glad to install a free smoke alarm for you!

