

FAMILY SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT



As autumn arrives, keeping warm and preparing for the colder weather will be at the top of our priority list. Read on for tips on how to keep your family both warm...and safe!

AN ALARMING TREND

As toddlers and young children become more mobile, they also become more curious and begin to explore their environment. In the last several years, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of burns to the palms of children from glass fireplace doors. These can be devastating injuries...the good news is, they are preventable!!

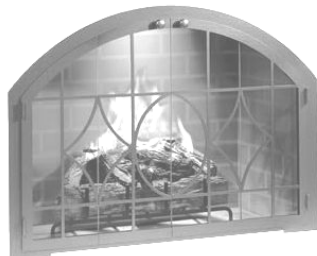
FIREPLACE FACTS

- The glass of a fireplace door can reach approximately 400°F within six minutes of ignition
- The glass can take up to 45 minutes to cool down after the fireplace has been turned off
- Contact with the glass of gas fireplace doors can result in second or third degree burns
- Burns of the hand can result in the hand not working properly and causing long term impairment and disability

SAFETY TIPS:

When using a fireplace of any kind, keep the following in mind:

- Never leave children unattended near a fireplace
- Use a fireplace screen or gate around the fireplace during use and while it is cooling down
- Make sure the on/off switch is not within reach of your child
- Remember these tips when visiting other homes



In 2006-2007, of the 27 contact burns admitted to the Lehigh Valley Health Network's Burn Center, 11 were due to contact with glass fireplace doors. In every instance, the burn was sustained by a child under the age of two.

FALL CLEAN-UP

It is important that you supervise your children closely when you become engrossed in your fall projects—especially those that involve fire or poisonous products. Check with your municipality to see if you are allowed to burn backyard waste. Keep these safety tips in mind:

- Only burn dried yard waste when there is *no wind*.
- Keep a hose nearby with the water turned on.



- Keep a rake handy to collect stray leaves and return them to the pile.
- Burn away from trees, shrubbery, and buildings.
- Keep children and pets away when fueling the lawnmower, and do this outdoors only.

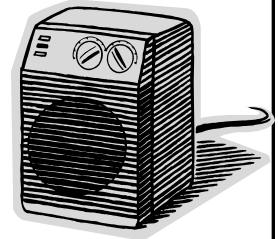
- Do not dispose of empty paint cans or aerosol cans in your regular trash. Call your municipality for instructions.
- Do not store piles of paper or cardboard too close to heaters or pilot lights.

- Dispose of unnecessary papers and boxes, leaving a clear, uncluttered passage to all entrances and exits.
- Never use an accelerant such as gasoline or kerosene to ignite yard waste



MORE HOME HEATING SAFETY TIPS

- Be sure to have all fuel-burning appliances professionally inspected and cleaned once a year. This includes fireplaces, woodstoves, and the chimneys of both.
- When lighting any type of heating apparatus, wear tight-fitting clothing. Loose fitting clothes can droop into the flame and ignite.
- Use only appropriate heating methods—using things like candles, hot plate, or oven to heat your home can result in burn injuries or fire.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid, or similar accelerants to light (or relight) a woodstove, fireplace, or any other type of heater.
- Keep heaters away from flammable materials, such as curtains, bedding, newspapers, etc.
- Never leave space heaters, fireplaces, stoves, etc. unattended while in use.



Burn Prevention Foundation is now on FACEBOOK!!!

Become our fan on Facebook and receive regular fire and burn prevention updates and safety tips. Type "Burn Prevention Network" into the search box, click on "Burn Prevention Network". Click on "become a fan" at the top of the page. Please tell your friends to join us too!!