FURNACE HEATING
It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

FINALLY . . .

- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION
16825 S. SETON AVE., EMWITTSBURG, MARYLAND 21727
Or visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov to order online
Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Keep a glass of water ready near the fireplace.
- Keep children away from the fire.
- Keep a door closed when not in use.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep flammable materials away from the fire.
- Use only the heat recommended by the heater manufacturer.

Kerosene Heaters

- Always keep a glass of water ready near the heater.
- Never use kerosene in the fireplace.
- Keep the heater well ventilated.
- Use only the heat recommended by the heater manufacturer.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Close the damper when not in use.
- Keep flammable materials away from the fire.
- Keep the damper closed when not in use.
- Use only the heat recommended by the heater manufacturer.