

SAFETY SENSE

Fire Safety Tips For Your Home

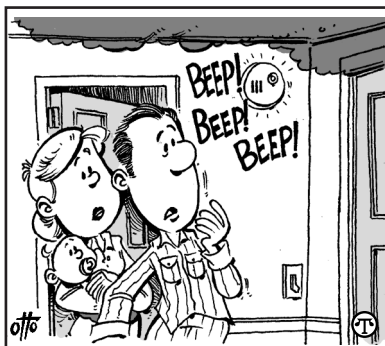
(NAPSA)—Fire safety is no accident. Whether it's the glow of a single candle or the flames wrapping a bundle of wood in the fireplace, open flames can quickly turn from cozy to dangerous. Fire safety is of special concern during the winter months when there is increased use of heat, electricity and appliances. Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires and fire deaths. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following tips to help reduce fire hazards in your home and protect you and your family in the event of a fire:

Safe Heating:

- Don't use the oven to heat your home; it's a fire hazard and source of toxic fumes.
- **ONLY** use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
- Space heaters need space. Keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.
- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary.
- Keep fire in the fireplace. Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace.
- Dispose of ashes in metal containers away from the home.

Fire safety around the house:

- Don't put flammable decorations close to heat sources.
- Don't overload your outlets.
- If you use lit candles to decorate or in case of a power outage,



ADVANCE WARNING—Having a working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire.

make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they can not be easily knocked over.

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Having a working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire.
- Develop a fire escape plan with your household and practice it regularly. Know two ways to exit from every room in your home.

The United States Fire Administration, an entity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and now a part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the federal leader in public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection. For further information on holiday fires or other fire safety topics, visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov.