



**American  
Red Cross**

of Northeastern New York

## Stay safe and warm at home this winter with these tips from the American Red Cross



### Simple tips to prevent home fires:

- **Keep all potential fuel sources** (newspapers, matches, bedding, clothing, carpets and rugs) at least three feet away from heat sources, such as space heaters, fireplaces and stoves.
- **Provide constant adult supervision** in rooms with lit candles or fires.
- **Keep fire in the fireplace** by using glass or metal fire screens.
- **Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended.** Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- **Never use a cooking range or oven** to heat your home.
- **Turn off portable space heaters** every time you leave the room or go to sleep.
- **Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected annually** by a professional, and cleaned if necessary.
- **If you must use space heaters, place them on a level, hard and nonflammable surface** (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

### Simple Steps to Make Your Home Safer

- **Smoke alarms save lives.** Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. If people sleep with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too. Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.
- **Consider having one or more working fire extinguishers in your home.** Get training from the fire department in proper use of your extinguishers.
- **Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system** in your home.
- **Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.** Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.
- **Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.** Practice your escape plan, especially with children, at least twice a year and revise as necessary.

For more safety tips and information on other American Red Cross programs, please visit [www.redcrossneny.org](http://www.redcrossneny.org), or call (518) 458-8111.