



*Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans*

## **Home Safety In Winter**

- Make sure every member of the household has a warm coat, gloves, hat, and water resistant boots.
- Ensure that extra blankets and heavy clothes are available.
- Keep items for elderly, infants, or disabled family members handy.
- Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards.
- To save heat during a winter storm close off unneeded rooms, cover windows at night and stuff towels or rags in the cracks under doors.
- Maintain adequate food and water intake. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.

### **If using a wood stove:**

- Carefully follow the manufacture's installation and maintenance instructions.
- Check for cracks and inspects legs, hinges, and door seals for smooth joints and seams.
- Use only seasonal wood for fuel, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash.
- Inspect and clean your pipes monthly for damage or obstructions.
- Keep combustible objects three feet away from wood stove.

### **If using an electric space heater:**

- Buy only heaters with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing.
- Make sure the heater has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Heaters should not be used as dryers or tabletops; don't dry clothes or store objects on top of the heater.
- Remember space heaters need space; keep combustibles at least three feet away and unplug if the heater is not in use.

### **If using a kerosene heater:**

- Buy only heaters with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing.
- Never fill your heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel; both flare up easily. Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene, and never overfill.
- Only use in a well ventilated room.

### **If using a fireplace:**

- Fireplaces regularly build up creosote in their chimneys. Chimneys should be cleaned out frequently and should be inspected for obstructions and cracks to prevent deadly chimney and roof fires.
- Always check to make sure the damper is open before starting any fire. Never burn trash, paper or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause heavy creosote buildup and are difficult to control.
- Use a screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothes near any open flame.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

*Source: Michigan State Police*