

# Safety Alarms

## Smoke Alarms

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms provide an early warning sign to your household and can save your life and those of your loved ones.

## Ionization Smoke Alarms

Sound more quickly when flaming, fast moving fires occur.

## Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires.

## Combination Smoke Alarms

Preferred for home safety. Special smoke alarms are made to assist those with hearing disabilities, often times using strobe lights and/or vibrate assistance.



## Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and toxic gas. It is the number one cause of accidental poisoning in the US and can cause similar symptoms to the common cold or flu.



- Install a CO detector on each level of your home and in or near each sleeping area.
- Keep detectors at least 20 feet away from fuel burning appliances and at least 10 feet away from humid locations; e.g. bathrooms and kitchens.
- If an alarm sounds, call a professional to check your fuel burning appliances.

## Installation and Maintenance

- Can be purchased at your local hardware, home supply, or general merchandise store. Some fire departments offer safety alarms at little or no cost.
- Install on every level of your house including basements and sleeping areas.
- Call local fire department if assistance is needed.
- Alarms that are hard wired need to be installed by a professional.
- Alarms should be tested every month.
- Batteries should be changed at least once per year.
- Alarms should be replaced every 8-10 years.

**For more information on Safety Alarms, visit the IDHS website: [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs)**

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# Heating Safety

Most residential fires involve space heaters, gas heaters, and kerosene heaters accounting for the highest fatality risk. All heating systems-including fireplaces-can be dangerous if they are not used and maintained properly. When purchasing any type of heater look for automatic shut-off safety features and the mark of an independent testing laboratory, indicating that the heater has met basic safety standards.

## Vents and Chimneys:

All fueled heaters must be vented to prevent dangerous carbon-monoxide build-up in your home. Have your chimney inspected by a professional before each heating season and have it cleaned. Consider installing a spark arrester on top of any chimney that vents a solid-fuel stove or fireplace.



## Space Heaters:

Keep all combustible materials away from portable and space heaters. Place all space heaters away from furniture, walls, and flammable objects. Plug your space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord. Turn off space heaters whenever the room is unoccupied and before you go to bed.

## Liquid-Fuel Safety:

Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater. Never use a substitute or lower-grade fuel and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel your heater outdoors away from fire hazards and when equipment is cool.

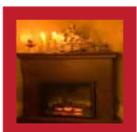


## Gas-Fueled Heaters:

Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and the exit point is properly sealed around the vent. Never install non-vented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms. Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in any small, enclosed space.

## Wood or Coal Stoves:

To protect the floor under wood or coal stoves, put down approved protection or a floor protector. Install wood and coal stoves at least three feet (one meter) away from walls and furniture. Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.



## Fireplaces:

When you use your fireplace use a fire screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass. Burn only seasoned wood and add carefully.

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