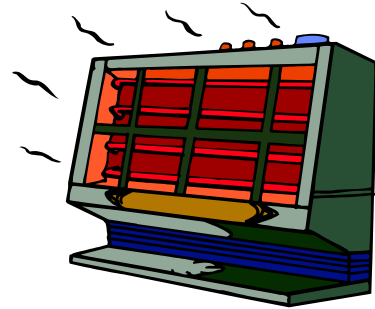




Fall Safety Tidbits

Well, it may not quite feel like it, but Fall is here. Leaves are beginning to fall and even though the afternoons have been warm, the air is cooling down a bit. As we begin our shift from the warm summer months to the cold winter months, its time once again to consider a few safety items.

Give Space Heaters Space: Space heaters need space, too. As the weather gets cooler, space heaters come out of their summer hiding places. Remember to leave at least three feet of space around your heater. Unplug it when it's not being used.



Test your CO Detector: During cold weather, your furnace will be running and your windows will be closed. Test the carbon monoxide detector near your home's bedrooms.

Never Heat with an Oven: You might be wondering who would do such a thing, but there are families who still have wall or floor heaters, and sometimes turn on the oven to accelerate the process of warming their home. On chilly fall mornings, avoid the temptation to warm the kitchen with a gas range or an open oven door. The unvented products of combustion can quickly build to toxic levels.



Replace Expired Fire Extinguishers: Make sure that the fire extinguisher in your home is still good. If it has expired or discharged, be sure to replace it promptly.

Test Your Local Smoke Detectors: If it needs a new battery, then replace it. If the detector still does not function, replace the detector. Remember my rule: Change your batteries when you change the clocks during Day Light Savings Time.

Wear Gloves While Doing Yard Work: It is the season for cleaning up. To help avoid blisters, injuries, not to mention spiders and other creepy crawly things that could bite, be sure to wear gloves

while doing yard work.

Use Your Legs to Lift Heavy Items: Whether you are putting things away for storage, or carrying garbage and yard waste to the curb, be sure to use your legs to avoid back injuries.



Other Quick Tidbits:



- Check cords on all electrical equipment for cracks or damage.
- Insulate water pipes running through unheated spaces.
- Check and repair caulking around doors and windows.
- Clean leaves and debris from gutters.

In Closing:

You may have thought of other items not listed above. Although the list of fall preparations can go on for days, I think it's less overwhelming to start with a few of the basics. Once you get going, you will have the motivation to tackle much more as you go along and feel the benefits of a job well done.

In the meantime, don't overdue the task at hand. Instead, enjoy the fading days of warm weather while you still can.

Until next time.....



Do *YOUR* part for Emergency Preparedness....pass on the information!

