

Sparky® Says: Stay Safe and Warm This Winter

Home Heating Information Sheet for Families

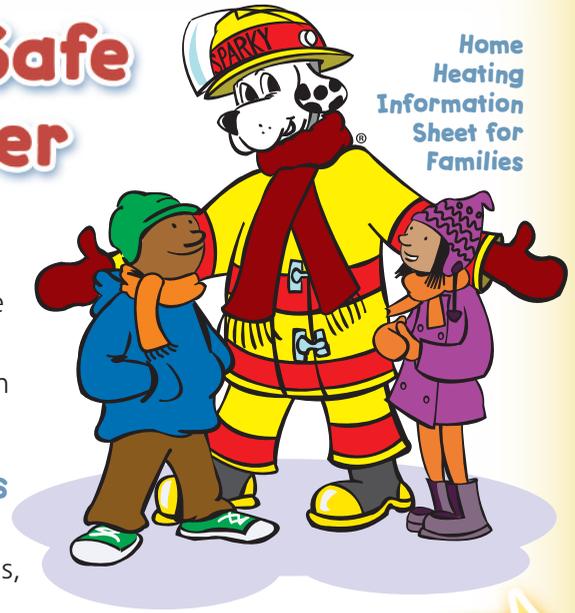
Dear Family,

It's winter! The days are shorter, the outside temperature is lower, and in some places it's cold, icy, and snowy. No matter where you live, winter brings a change in season and a **time to think about home-heating safety.**

Did you know that **home-heating equipment causes more than 60,000 home fires and hundreds of deaths** each year? By taking a few simple precautions, most heating-related fires can be prevented.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed the following **safety tips** and **fun family activity** to help you stay safe this winter.

Best wishes for a warm and safe winter season!



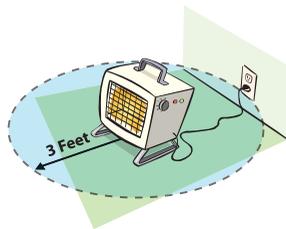
Turn the page for a fun Family Activity!

Sparky's Home-Heating Safety Tips

Hang this checklist on your refrigerator to remember to stay safe and warm this (and every!) winter.

Safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heating equipment (furnace, woodstove, or portable heater).
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.



- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- For fuel assistance contact the National Fuel Funds Network at 1-202-824-0660.



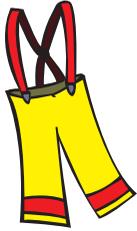


FAMILY ACTIVITY



A Warm Family Meal

Create a fun story the whole family will love! Work together to fill in the blanks (don't peek!). Then read the story aloud. Repeat again and again to make a new story each time! Have fun and be as silly as you want!!



1. Your Family's Name: _____
2. Adjective: _____
3. A Food: _____
4. A Food: _____
5. Kind of Animal: _____
6. Pet Name: _____
7. Plural Food: _____
8. Silly Word: _____
9. Boy's Name: _____
10. Silly Adult Name: _____
11. Adjective: _____
12. Noun: _____
13. Girl's Name: _____
14. Plural Noun: _____
15. Adjective: _____
16. Silly Adult Name: _____
17. Same Girl's Name: _____
18. Exclamation: _____
19. Same Boy's Name: _____
20. Adjective: _____
21. An Emotion: _____
22. Animal Sound: _____
23. Pet Name: _____
24. Verb + ing: _____
25. Your Family's Name: _____
26. Adjective: _____

The _____ family enjoyed a _____ dinner of cheesy _____ and buttery _____ . Their pet _____ , _____ , begged for _____ at their feet.

(1. Your Family's Name) (2. Adjective) (3. A Food) (4. A Food) (5. Kind of Animal) (6. Pet Name) (7. Plural Food)

" _____ , it's cold in here!" said _____ . "Let's set up the space heater."

(8. Silly Word) (9. Boy's Name)

"After dinner," said _____ . "First you have to move your _____ . We need to leave three feet of space around the heater."

(10. Silly Adult Name) (11. Adjective) (12. Noun)

"Can we light a fire in the fireplace instead?" asked _____ . "Then he won't have to move his stinky _____ ."

(13. Girl's Name) (14. Plural Noun)

"Very _____ ," said _____ . "Well, we did have the chimney cleaned and inspected this year. I also put a new screen in front of the fireplace."

(15. Adjective) (16. Silly Adult Name)

"Plus, we tested our smoke alarms just last week," said _____ . " _____ !" shouted _____ . "The _____ glow of the fireplace always makes me _____ ."

(17. Same Girl's Name) (18. Exclamation) (19. Same Boy's Name) (20. Adjective) (21. An Emotion)

" _____ " exclaimed _____ , _____ around the room.

(22. Animal Sound) (23. Pet Name) (24. Verb + ing)

The _____ laughed and enjoyed the _____ fireplace.

(25. Your Family's Name) (26. Adjective)