November Tip: Keep the Home Fires Burning Safely for the Holidays.

Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires every year during winter months. Kerosene heaters, candles, and wood burning fireplaces are big culprits. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and it only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Be Ready.

Tip #1: Install smoke detectors on each level of your home.
Tip #2: When Daylight Savings Time ends on November 3, check your smoke alarm battery when you change your clocks.
Tip #3: Keep anything combustible at least three feet away from any heating source.
Tip #4: Use kerosene heaters only where approved by authorities, and refuel outside only after the heater has cooled.
Tip #5: Never leave a burning candle unattended or abandoned.
Tip #6: Use fire screens to keep the fire in the fireplace and have your chimney cleaned every year.
Tip #7: Prepare and practice a fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities. It's also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests.

For more information, view the information prepared by the U.S. Fire Administration in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/.

Be/stay informed, make a plan, build a kit and pass it on, so all are prepared.

Semper Paratus!