

## News



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### **Gloucester County provides safety tips to residents regarding heating equipment**

(Clarksboro, NJ)—The County Fire Marshal’s office wants to remind Gloucester County residents about the dangers of heating equipment this winter.

Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger said, “Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. With a few safety tips and precautions you can keep yourself, your family and our community safe.”

These simple steps could save your home from falling victim to a house fire. Take a few moments to share these tips with your family and friends to prevent fire:

1. Keep any object that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater)
2. Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around any heating device
3. Never use your oven to heat your home
4. Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instruction
5. Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional
6. Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed
7. Make sure your fire place has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room
8. Test your smoke alarms once a month

Freeholder Daniel Christy says, “Every home should establish a well-planned escape route if a house fire develops, these steps will help residents protect their home before disaster strikes ”

For more information and tips visit

<http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/e/emeresponse/firemarshall/firesafety.asp> or contact Fire Chief Shawn K. Layton (856) 307-7913.

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