



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL W. DYER
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Heater Safety -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. January 4, 2011 – Are heaters in your home close to curtains, news papers or other flammable materials? Heating is the second leading cause of fire death for older adults. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department wants to make sure you'll stay warm and safe this winter and offers these life-saving tips:

When purchasing a space heater, only purchase one with a safety feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over. Space heaters need space. Keep items at least three feet away from each heater.

Keep the fire inside the fireplace by making sure you have a fireplace screen large enough to stop flying sparks and rolling logs. Have your chimney inspected at least once a year. Tar build-up inside of the chimney can cause the chimney, roof, and the whole house to catch fire. After Christmas, never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace. It burns too fast and explosive. It is recommended to recycle your tree.

Keep your furnace clean and have it inspected regularly. Remember to change the filter to help it run more efficiently.

Remember, the best way to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department wants you to have a warm and safe winter.

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