



NEWS RELEASE

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Heating fire safety tips to prevent home fires

EVERETT, WA – Over the weekend, on Saturday, November 11th, the Everett Fire Department received a call about a fire alarm going off and the smell of smoke emanating from a multi-family residential building located in the 2600 block of Summit Avenue. Fortunately, all the residents of the building had already evacuated the premises. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered that the cause of the alarm was a suitcase placed in front of a running wall heater in one of the apartments, which had overheated and caught fire.

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths, according to the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA.org). With the temperature dropping, it's important to keep a few safety tips in mind to prevent most heating fires from happening. Common household mistakes contribute to the majority of these fires, such as placing flammable objects too close to heating equipment.

Preventing a heating fire in your home is incredibly easy. Just read the following tips, and you'll be on your way. Here are the top five home heating safety tips:

1. Keep space heaters three feet from anything combustible.
2. Do not leave space heaters unattended; turn them off while sleeping.
3. Plug space heaters directly into the wall, not an extension cord or power strip.
4. Never use your oven to heat your home.
5. Make sure your wood stove or fireplace is properly ventilated.

Additionally, share these tips with your kids. And make sure the really little ones are supervised when they're in the same room as a space heater. The lights, buttons, and dials can be tempting!

Sometimes, home fires do happen despite all the preparation and caution in the world. So remember that smoke alarms save lives — but only if they work. Test your alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. A working alarm can give you the valuable seconds you need to escape in the event there is a fire in your home.

The Everett Fire Department, in cooperation with the American Red Cross of Snohomish County, will install smoke alarms, free of charge, in the homes of low-income, seniors and those with disabilities. If you need assistance and live within Everett city limits, contact the Everett Fire Marshal's Office at 425-257-8100 or email FMO@everettwa.gov.

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