

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Deputy Chief Elio Pompa
Glendale Fire Department
(623) 640-1300

November 29, 2006

WINTERY WEATHER BRINGS REMINDERS TO HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY

GLENDALE, AZ. Two out of three reported home heating fires and associated deaths and injuries in 2001 involved portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment, such as fireplaces. The estimated 54,900 home heating fires in 2001 killed 220 people, injured 1,120 and caused more than \$502 million dollars in damages.

Glendale Firefighters want you to have a safe, and festive holiday season, but urge caution when heating your home with portable space heaters. Following these safety tips can keep you and your family safe and cozy this winter:

- When buying a space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician.
- Keep or maintain a 36-inch clearance between space heaters and anything that can burn.
- Have fireplaces, chimneys, solid-fueled heating equipment inspected by a professional, and cleaned annually. Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.
- 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 any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation.
- Never use a portable barbeque grill or container with an open fire to heat any part of your home
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

NEWS
Glendale, az

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
is a nationally
accredited
agency

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
responds to
more than 26,000
calls a year

Glendale
firefighters
remind you to
use supervision
around water

City of Glendale
Public Safety
6835 N. 57th Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85301
www.glendaleaz.com

