

# HAZARDS AND THREATS: ADVERSE WEATHER

## EXTREME COLD



## FIRE SAFETY

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and heaters can add a cozy glow, but make sure you are using them safely.

- Always keep a screen around an open flame.
- Never use gasoline to start your fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
- When using alternative heat sources such as a fireplace, woodstove, etc. always make sure you have proper ventilation. Keep curtains, towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.
- Have your chimney checked before the season for creosote buildup -- and then clean it.
- Have a fire extinguisher and smoke detectors...and make sure they work. Establish a well-planned escape route with the entire family.

## KEROSENE HEATERS

If you use kerosene heaters to supplement your regular heating fuel, or as an emergency source of heat, follow these safety tips:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use only the correct fuel for your unit.

- Refuel outdoors **ONLY** and only when the unit is cool.
- Keep the heater at least three feet away from furniture and other flammable objects.
- When using the heater, use fire safeguards and ventilate properly.

Remember, the fire hazard is greatly increased in the winter because alternate heating sources often are used without following proper safety precautions.

## **CLEANING YOUR ROOF**



As the snow and ice continues to build up, homeowners should think about safety before trying to clear the snow from their roof. Here are some safety tips:

- When possible, use long-handled snow rakes or poles.
- If you must use a ladder, make certain that the base is securely anchored. Ask a friend, neighbor or adult family member to hold the ladder while you climb.
- Know where the snow is going to fall before clearing the area.
- Make certain not to contact electrical wires.
- If possible, do not attempt to clear the roof alone.
- If you are afraid of heights or think the job is too big for you, hire help.

Clearing roofs is a dangerous task. However, if you think safety, and work safely, you will get the job done.

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