



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

316 River Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Heating Appliances

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HEATING APPLIANCES

Heating appliances remain a leading cause of home fires and residential fire deaths. Therefore, the Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners in conjunction with Fire Chief Mike D'Elia Jr., Fire Prevention Coordinator Jacob Woolf, and the members of the Lakewood Fire Department, offer following Fire Safety information with regard to Heating Appliances.

1. A qualified serviceperson should check heating equipment for proper operation prior to the start of every heating season.
2. Prior to using a fireplace at the start of every season, have the chimney inspected by a professional and cleaned if necessary. Burn only seasoned firewood in the fireplace.
3. Electric Space Heaters should not be used unless they bear the label of an independent testing agency, have a tip over switch that will shut the unit off if knocked over and have a wire grill to keep fingers and flammables away from the hot heating elements.
4. Electric Space Heaters must not be left unattended and must be positioned at least 36 inches away from all flammable materials such as curtains, drapes, newspapers, furniture, etc. Electric Space Heaters should be plugged directly into electrical receptacles without utilizing extension cords.
5. The use of Portable Kerosene Heaters is prohibited in all occupancies except one- and two-family dwellings pursuant to the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. However, although these heaters are permitted in one - and two-family dwellings, the Lakewood Fire Department does not recommend them and strongly discourages their use because of dangers associated with them.

Importance of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Remember that smoke detectors provide early warning of a fire, allowing extra time to escape, and as a result, substantially reducing the risk of injury and/or death in residential fire. Smoke detectors should be located outside each separate sleeping area and on every floor of one's home including the basement. Carbon monoxide detectors should be located outside each separate sleeping area. A few minutes should be spent each and every month to test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are operational.