

# 10 FIRE AND CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY TIPS FROM DISASTER SERVICES

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Many house fires are preventable by taking a few simple precautions. Carbon Monoxide is a silent and invisible killer with no scent, read on for tips on detection and leak prevention.

1. Any open flame or heat source needs a safety perimeter! Clear the spaces in front of and surrounding fireplaces and space heaters, you need 3-4 feet of open space. The only exception is your stovetop. Clear the area around your burners of anything flammable and never leave a lit gas or powered on electric stove unattended. Fully extinguish all open flames (including candles!) before leaving a room and turn off the space heater.
2. Indoor extension cords and plug strips can ONLY be used indoors and need to be placed where they will not become trip hazards. Please do not plug extension cords into plug strips as this can create a fire hazard. Outdoor extension cords can be used anywhere, as long as they are not trip hazards.
3. Only space heaters designed for indoor use should be used indoors! Please pay careful attention to any safety documentation that comes with your space heater and follow the recommended guidelines.
4. It is highly recommended to have your heating system, water heater and any other gas burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
5. NEVER use a generator, charcoal grill, propane camping stove or any gasoline burning motor or engine inside your house or within 20 feet of your doors, windows and vents. This also applies to running your car engine inside an attached garage, this can emit dangerous levels of Carbon Monoxide, even with the garage door wide open.
6. Please do not heat your house by using your gas oven or gas cooktop.
7. Do not burn anything in a fireplace or a stove that is not vented.
8. Install Carbon Monoxide detectors and, as you do for smoke detectors, check the batteries monthly.
9. If you are feeling light headed or nauseous and you suspect Carbon Monoxide poisoning, get outside into fresh air immediately, if you can't get outside, get to an open window and call 911 for help.
10. When seeking medical treatment, make sure to tell the medical provider that you suspect Carbon Monoxide poisoning, as the symptoms for this are very similar to those of many other conditions.

Free smoke detector for Kansas City, MO residents:

Call: (816) 513-4648 or

go to: <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/fire/fire-marshal-division-fire-prevention/smoke-detectors>

Free Carbon Monoxide detectors are available to Kansas City, MO residents by emailing: [healthy.homes@kcmo.org](mailto:healthy.homes@kcmo.org)

