



## ***Stay Safe!***

### ***Are you thinking about heating with a woodstove? Or another new heat source?***

As heating oil prices continue to rise, more people will be heating with woodstoves or other alternative heating sources this year. If you are one of those people, we want to keep you safe with the following Safety Tips.

1. For woodstoves- to reduce creosote build-up, burn dry well-seasoned hardwoods.  
(Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid or other flammable liquid to start a fire.)  
Also all ashes should be put in a non-combustible container far from the house or other structures.
2. Make sure your woodstove or other new heat source is properly installed. Installation is best done by a professional, but if you install one yourself, make sure you follow the manufacturer's guidelines and applicable building codes. You should consult with your local building department and fire department. In addition all heating shielding should be installed with a 2 inch air space behind it.
3. Never attach more than one heat source to the same chimney flue. For example a woodstove pipe should not be connected to a flue serving a fire place or an oil furnace. They should have their own individual flues. Also the chimney should be lined and cleaned regularly.
4. All combustible materials (walls, furniture, household items, draperies, or anything that can burn) should be at least 36" away from the heat source. Also the heat source should be placed on a noncombustible floor material, and should extend at least 18" beyond any loading doors.
5. If a woodstove pipe passes through a wall or ceiling, use a ventilating thimble approved for this type of installation. The thimble should be at least 12" larger than the stovepipe.
6. Make sure the smoke detectors in the room with the woodstove are working properly and keep a UL-listed dry chemical fire extinguisher in the vicinity of the stove.

***Please note: You need to notify your agent if you install a woodstove or other new heat source in your home.***