

Fireplaces / Chimneys / Wood Stoves

The July 4th holiday is a wonderful celebration and gateway to the summer months. Unfortunately, it can also provide ample opportunity for danger, particularly among children. It is smart to play it safe in the summer months and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned before the winter begins.
- Observe state and local laws. Check with your local police or fire department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area.
- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace whenever a fire is burning.
- Be sure the fire is out prior to retiring at night or leaving the house.
- Never use the fireplace as an incinerator.
- Do not burn wrappings or evergreen boughs, which can burn suddenly and rapidly, throwing off sparks and debris.
- Keep wrapping paper away from fireplace and dispose of at once.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Chimney fires are often a result of overbuilding a fire. The intense heat can either incur structural damage or cause the chimney to ignite.
- A yearly inspection by a chimney sweep will ensure proper maintenance of the system.
- All wood burning appliances must be vented if used indoors.
- The state fire Marshall's seal is required on all wood burning appliances sold in this state.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.