



Vol XXXIX, Issue 1
January 2021

It's Getting HOT in Here!

Happy New Year!!! It is safe to say, people all over the country are ready to see what 2021 has in store after the unprecedented year we all experienced in 2020. Hopefully 2021 brings a fresh start and sense of urgency in getting back to whatever our new normal will look like. For some, one of the best parts of the New Year is the colder weather that typically accompanies the first few months. For a majority of people in the Southern United States, the cold weather brings added stress of staying warm and keeping the inside of their home or commercial property comfortable.

Staying sufficiently warm in the winter months can be challenging, especially when frigid temperatures persist for multiple days. During the months of December, January and February, everyone relies heavily on their heating systems to keep their home or commercial property warm and comfortable. It comes as no surprise that half of all the home heating fires occur during these three months. The most recent data also indicates that heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Annually, home heating fires cause an estimated \$1 billion in direct property damage every year.

Below are some heating tips from the U.S. Fire Administration in regards to space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, and furnaces to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug in portable heater directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fire place to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your property.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at 3 feet away from any structure.

Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not put paper in your wood stove.
- Put out the fire before you go to sleep or leave the property.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year licensed HVAC company.
- Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.
- Replace filters when they become dirty. You may need to change your filters more often if you use your furnace often, have pets, or smoke.
- Vacuum any lint or dust that builds up around your furnace on a monthly basis.

When the temperatures drop and you go to warm up your home or commercial building, please remember these safety tips. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe!

The Gerloff Company wishes you and your family a Happy and prosperous New Year!

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6 IFMA Luncheon	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 IREM Luncheon	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr Day	19	20 IIASA Luncheon SABOMA Luncheon	21 SAABE Luncheon	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28 IWSA Luncheon	29	30

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Events

January 1: New Year's Day
 January 6: IFMA Luncheon
 January 14: IREM Luncheon
 January 20: SABOMA Luncheon
 January 20: IIASA Luncheon
 January 21: SAABE
 January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 January 28: IWSA Luncheon

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