



Winter Home Safety

There are certain dangers that are more common during the cold-weather months. Learn to recognize these issues and help prevent problems from occurring in your home this season.

The number one cause of death in children is unintentional injury. Fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths among children.

Burns:

- Each year approximately nine children age 14 and under die from scald and burn-related injuries. Keep in mind, children 4 years old and younger account for nearly all of these deaths.
- Of the children ages 4 and under that become hospitalized for burn-related injuries, 65% are treated for scald burns and 20% for contact burns.
- 95% of microwave burns among children are scald burns. These burns are typically caused by spilling hot food or liquids and primarily result in injuries to the face and/or the trunk of the body.



Cooking – Did You Know?

- Facts: Home cooking equipment is the leading cause of residential fire-related injuries. Also, home fire-related deaths are more likely to occur during the cold-weather months (December – March).

Cooking – Steps to Safety

- Stay with your food while it cooks. Leaving cooking food unattended is the number one cause of house fires.
- Never hold a child while cooking.
- Keep your pots and pans out of the reach of little hands. Use the back burners when cooking and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Supervise your child when they are near or using a microwave and make sure that no child under the age of 10 removes hot items.
- Make a habit of wearing close-fitting clothing while cooking and instruct your child to follow your example.



- Pay close attention to the location of items sitting on tablecloths, placemats and hot pads. Make sure that young children will be unable to grab hold of these items, as they could result in hot food or liquids splashing/spilling onto the child.

For more information on childhood safety and injury risk areas, contact Safe Kids Grand Forks at 701.780.1489 or safekids@altru.org.

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Candle Safety:

- Never leave candles unattended and be sure to extinguish them prior to leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and do not leave a candle in the same room as a child without adult supervision.
- Children and teenagers should not be allowed to keep candles in their bedrooms.
- When using a candle make sure to place it on a heat-resistant surface, out of the path of kids and pets, and keep it well-away from all other flammable objects (e.g. clothing, curtains, blinds, paper, books, Christmas trees, flammable decorations, etc.).
- Never use candles as a light to check pilot lights or fueling equipment such as kerosene heaters or lanterns. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- Always extinguish candles by blowing them out gently to avoid splattering hot wax. Never extinguish a candle with water, or in the case of jar candles by replacing the lid while the candle is still lit.
- Keep wax pools free of wick trimmings or other foreign matter that present fire hazards. Be aware of candle rings that could catch on fire if the wax overflowed on to them.
- Store candles, matches, and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children. If possible, store them in a locked cabinet.



Fireplace Safety

When enjoying your fireplace, safety is a must! It is important to remember these basic safety precautions:

- Never leave a young child alone near a fireplace; they can be burned before, during and after use of the fireplace.
- Use a fireplace safety fence and create a barrier around the fireplace to keep your child at a safe distance at all times. Safety gates in doorways can keep your child from being in the room alone.
- Fireplace glass and other surfaces get extremely hot and can cause burns if touched. Consider purchasing a safety attachment designed to disperse heat from the fireplace doors.

- Fireplaces, stoves and inserts (and their surrounding material) will remain hot for a period of time after being turned off, so caution should be used at all times.
- Keep clothing, furniture, draperies and other flammable materials a safe distance away.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

This silent killer cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. Each year, more than 20,000 children visit the emergency room due to carbon monoxide poisoning.



- When you heat up your vehicle in the winter, be sure that you remove it from your garage immediately after starting it.
- Never use your stove to heat up your house.
- Keep your dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace vents on the outside of your home clear of any snow, ice or other debris.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and make sure to keep them a minimum of 15 feet away from any fuel-burning appliance.
- A smoke alarm is not a substitute for a carbon monoxide alarm and the opposite is also true; so be sure to install both in your home.
- Test your alarms regularly and update them every 5-7 years.



Winter Water Danger

- Supervise your children while in or near pools, hot tubs or any other body of water.
- Keep your pools and spas safe and secure. Install a minimum of 5 feet tall, four-sided isolation fence around your spas and pools. This fencing should have a self-closing and self-latching gate.
- Do not allow your children to walk out on to frozen bodies of water. The ice may have thin spots, holes, cracks, etc. that could put your child at risk.

