Hot Zone: Space Heaters
If using space heaters, UL suggests consumers do so with extreme caution: 73 percent of all fires and 43 percent of all injuries related to heating result from improper use of these products.

- **All heaters need space.** Keep items that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- **Always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed,** and never place them in an area where a child is sleeping.
- **Look for the UL Mark** when purchasing a space heater, which means it has been tested for safety and includes protective features to lessen the risk of burn or fire hazards.

Hot Zone: Fireplaces
If you live in a building that has access to a fireplace, and you think it’s safe and easy to gently warm your area by starting a small fire in the fireplace? Think again. Unfortunately, failure to clean a chimney or flue is the leading cause of all home heating equipment fires combined.¹

- **Maintain the chimney and flue.** They need to be cleaned and inspected annually by a trained professional.
- **Use a sturdy fireplace screen** to prevent sparks from flying into the area.
- **Be alert to the danger signs that signal a carbon monoxide (CO) problem** such as the absence of a draft in your chimney, soot falling into the fireplace, or small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent or flue.

Hot Zone: Wood Burning Stoves
If you live in an area that had a wood burning stove it is important to exercise care while using the stove. Recent reports show they account for nearly 4,900 injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms each season.¹

- **Keep wood stove doors closed** unless loading or stoking the fire.
- **Be sure wood stove chimney connectors are installed,** and done so in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions or professionally installed as many injuries are the result of improper installation.

Hot Zone: Staying Safe and Warm...
In addition to the above heating equipment tips, follow these additional tips to keep out of the “hot zones”:

- **Only use heating equipment that has been tested for safety.** Products that bear the UL Mark have been tested to UL’s stringent safety standards and found to be free of foreseeable hazards.
- **Never use cooking stoves, grills or ovens to heat the area.** They could potentially be a fire hazard or cause CO poisoning.

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL Marks appearing on 72,000 manufacturers’ products each year.

UL’s worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 62 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 99 countries.

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