



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Now is the Time to Prepare for the Winter Home Heating Season** *State Fire Marshal Reminds Kentuckians of Fire Prevention Safety Tips*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (Nov. 13, 2014) – The Kentucky State Fire Marshal is asking Kentuckians to be mindful of fire prevention efforts and inspect home heating appliances as cold weather settles in Kentucky this week.

“According to national statistics, heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months,” said Fire Marshal William Swope, director of Kentucky’s Division of Fire Prevention. “It’s never too early to prepare for the heating season.”

The following fire safety tips from the U.S. Fire Administration can help maintain a fire-safe home this winter season:

#### **Kerosene Heaters**

- Be sure your kerosene heater is in good working condition.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel can produce deadly fumes.
- Use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never refuel the heater while it is in operation. Always refuel outdoors.
- Keep young children away from space heaters.

#### **Wood Stoves and Fireplaces**

- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned, if necessary.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Wood for the fireplace and wood stove should be dry, seasoned wood.
- Keep a covered metal container outside and ready to use to dispose of cooled ashes.

#### **Furnace Heating**

- It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists.

Swope said education is key to preventing fires in your home. "Make sure that everyone in your home understands fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire in your residence," he said. "Have an escape plan that shows two ways out and practice this plan with your family on a regular basis. And finally, check your smoke alarms and make sure they work."