

**Fall Safety Tips**

**Check around the furnace before turning the heat on for the first time**

Make sure that there is nothing near it that is flammable. It is also a good idea to have your furnace inspected before winter sets in. If for some reason you cannot have an inspection performed take a look at it yourself. Make sure that the flame is blue, not yellow or orange. Also check the pipe from the furnace to the chimney to be sure that it doesn’t have rust spots and isn’t disconnected at either end. If there are radiators in your home, remove anything that is sitting on top of them before the heat comes on.

**Dress kids in light-colored clothing**

This will help drivers to see them on their way home from after-school activities. On Halloween make sure your kids can be seen by applying reflective glow tape to their costume and/or giving them a flashlight or glowstick.

**Change batteries when you “fall back”**

Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm and your carbon monoxide detector.

**Practice your family fire escape plan**

It is important to have a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year. Frightened children may be tempted to hide under the bed or in a closet during a fire unless you teach them exactly how to escape.

**Use space heaters safely**

Keep combustibles three feet from the heat. If using a fuel-powered heater, open a door or window slightly to allow fresh air to circulate. Remember to turn off the heater when leaving the house and before going to bed.

**Buy winter storm supplies now**

The Old Farmer’s Almanac predicts above normal amounts of snow and below-normal temperatures across much of the United States this winter. Buy a good supply of ice melting compound now.

**Add outdoor lighting to dark places**

These will help to discourage intruders and protect against falls. It is best to install motion sensor lights around doors and near steps.

**Clean leaves out of your gutters every week in the fall**

Make sure to use the right ladder for the job and use it properly.

**Have your chimney inspected and cleaned** **before using your fireplace**

This is a job for a professional and will help to prevent chimney fires

**Get your car winter ready**

Stock the trunk with a blanket, hat, gloves, a bag of salt or non-clumping kitty litter for traction, extra windshield wiper fluid, an ice scraper and shovel. Throw in a brightly colored cloth to tie to your antenna in case you get stuck. Also toss in a few snacks like granola bars and unsalted canned nuts as well as bottled water. Have all fluid levels checked. Finally, make sure that your tires are ready for bad weather.