

Safety Tips: Winter

Heater safety, Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors

- An annual average of 49,100 heating fires occurred in residential buildings from 2002-2004.
- These fires were responsible for an estimated 125 civilian fire deaths, 575 civilian fire injuries, and \$232 million in property loss.

With the arrival of a cold front in our city, El Paso Fire Department Officials remind the public how important it is to take the necessary safety precautions to prevent heating fires in the home. Many of these fires and injuries can be prevented through proper use and maintenance of heating systems and equipment.

Heating is the second leading cause of all residential building fires (behind cooking fires) and is most prevalent in the winter months when the use of central heating systems, portable heaters, and fireplaces is most common. Over one quarter of residential building heating fires result from improper maintenance of heating equipment, specifically the failure to clean the equipment.