

# WEATHER EMERGENCIES

## SOME TYPES OF FIRE RELATED HAZARDS PRESENT DURING AND AFTER SEVERE WEATHER

- Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.
- Debris can easily ignite, especially if electrical wires are severed.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Generators not properly used and maintained.
- Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.

## CHEMICAL SAFETY

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid and paint thinner that may have spilled, thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged including cable TV and telephone lines.
- Look for and replace damaged extension and appliance cords.
- Exposed outlets and wiring present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should not be used.

## GAS SAFETY

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
- Never strike a match, use open flame devices or turn on lights.
- Never turn the gas back on before having the system checked.

## GENERATOR SAFETY

- Follow the manufacture's instructions and guidelines.
- Use a generator or any fuel-powered equipment outside the house. Carbon Monoxide fumes can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use appropriate sized/type power cords to carry the electrical loads.
- Never run cords under rugs and carpet.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or "back feed" can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

## HEATING SAFETY

- Kerosene heaters may not be legal in your community check first.
- Do not use the kitchen oven/range to heat your house.
- Alternative heaters need at least 3 feet from any combustibles.
- Make sure your alternative heaters have "tip switches." These switches are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over.
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacture.
- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
- Refuel space heaters only outdoors.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, at least 3 feet away from combustible materials, and have adequate ventilation.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace.

## AND REMEMBER...

- Some smoke detectors may be dependent on your house electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke detector uses a back-up battery.
- Lit candles should be in stable holders and placed where they can not be easily knocked over. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Keep stairwells and exits free of furniture and household items.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters and matches away from children.
- Do not try to extinguish a house fire. Get everyone out and then call 911.