

# Sparky® Says: Stay Safe and Warm This Winter

Home Heating Information Sheet for Families



Dear Family,

**It's winter!** The days are shorter, the outside temperature is lower, and in some places it's cold, icy, and snowy. No matter where you live, winter brings a change in season and a **time to think about home-heating safety.**

Did you know that **home-heating equipment causes more than 60,000 home fires and hundreds of deaths** each year? By taking a few simple precautions, most heating-related fires can be prevented.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed the following **safety tips** and **fun family activity** to help you stay safe this winter.

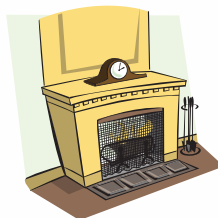
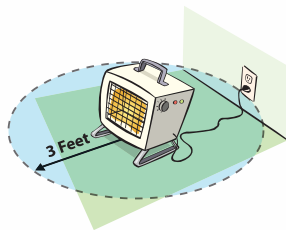
Best wishes for a warm and safe winter season!

## Sparky's Home-Heating Safety Tips

Hang this checklist on your refrigerator to remember to stay safe and warm this (and every!) winter.

### Safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heating equipment (furnace, woodstove, or portable heater).
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.



- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- For fuel assistance contact the National Fuel Funds Network at 1-202-824-0660.



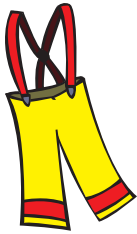


# FAMILY ACTIVITY

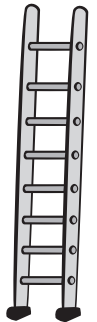


## A Warm Family Meal

Create a fun story the whole family will love! Work together to fill in the blanks (don't peek!). Then read the story aloud. Repeat again and again to make a new story each time! Have fun and be as silly as you want!!



- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Your Family's Name: _____ | 14. Plural Noun: _____        |
| 2. Adjective: _____          | 15. Adjective: _____          |
| 3. A Food: _____             | 16. Silly Adult Name: _____   |
| 4. A Food: _____             | 17. Same Girl's Name: _____   |
| 5. Kind of Animal: _____     | 18. Exclamation: _____        |
| 6. Pet Name: _____           | 19. Same Boy's Name: _____    |
| 7. Plural Food: _____        | 20. Adjective: _____          |
| 8. Silly Word: _____         | 21. An Emotion: _____         |
| 9. Boy's Name: _____         | 22. Animal Sound: _____       |
| 10. Silly Adult Name: _____  | 23. Pet Name: _____           |
| 11. Adjective: _____         | 24. Verb + ing: _____         |
| 12. Noun: _____              | 25. Your Family's Name: _____ |
| 13. Girl's Name: _____       | 26. Adjective: _____          |



The \_\_\_\_\_ family enjoyed a \_\_\_\_\_ dinner of cheesy \_\_\_\_\_ and buttery \_\_\_\_\_ . Their pet \_\_\_\_\_ , begged for \_\_\_\_\_ at their feet.

" \_\_\_\_\_ , it's cold in here!" said \_\_\_\_\_ . "Let's set up the space heater."

"After dinner," said \_\_\_\_\_ . "First you have to move your \_\_\_\_\_ . We need to leave three feet of space around the heater."

"Can we light a fire in the fireplace instead?" asked \_\_\_\_\_ . "Then he won't have to move his stinky \_\_\_\_\_ ."

"Very \_\_\_\_\_ ," said \_\_\_\_\_ . "Well, we did have the chimney cleaned and inspected this year. I also put a new screen in front of the fireplace."

"Plus, we tested our smoke alarms just last week," said \_\_\_\_\_ . " \_\_\_\_\_ !" shouted \_\_\_\_\_ . "The \_\_\_\_\_ glow of the fireplace always makes me \_\_\_\_\_ ."

" \_\_\_\_\_ " exclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ around the room.

The \_\_\_\_\_ laughed and enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_ fireplace.

