



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Office of State Fire Marshal

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SC STATE FIRE URGES SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO STAY FIRE SAFE THIS WINTER

With cold temperatures and the potential for winter storms on the horizon, SC State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones is urging South Carolinians to prepare now for winter weather and to practice fire safety throughout the season.

“Even though we don’t see snow every year, South Carolina is not immune to freezing temperatures, ice storms, or power outages,” Jones said. “Preparedness starts at home. Taking a few simple steps, from testing smoke alarms to heating your home safely, can prevent tragedy and keep families safe this winter.”

Each year, more home fires occur during the winter months than any other time of the year, often linked to unsafe heating practices. To reduce risk, SC State Fire reminds residents to:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, and never leave them unattended.
- Plug electric heaters directly into wall outlets, not extension cords or power strips.
- Use fireplaces safely, burn only dry wood, use a sturdy screen, and let ashes cool completely before disposal.
- In case of power outage, operate generators outdoors only, at least 20 feet from doors and windows.

SC State Fire also reminds residents that working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are critical lifesaving tools, especially during the winter months when heating equipment and portable generators are in use. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly to ensure they work properly. Replace smoke alarms more than 10 years old and carbon monoxide alarms per the manufacturer's instructions.

“Prevention and preparation go hand in hand,” Jones said. “Every small action, from cleaning a chimney to testing an alarm, helps protect lives and property.”

For fire safety resources, visit <https://firesafe.sc.gov/>

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SC State Fire, a division of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, provides essential services in fire prevention, training, emergency response, and community risk reduction.



Our mission is to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property.