

# SAFE FOR WINTER

# HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As the nights begin to draw in and the weather gets colder, it's the time of year that we all start to spend more time indoors. While you're keeping cosy this winter though, remember the following top home fire safety tips.

## Always remember

- Have a working smoke alarm on every floor of your home
- Check gas appliances such as boilers and heaters regularly to protect yourself from carbon monoxide
- Make a fire escape plan and think about how you would contact us for help

## Candles

- Two fires a day are started by candles, and along with incense and oil burners they are one of the biggest causes of fires in the home
- Place candles away from curtains and other flammable items
- Scented candles turn to liquid to release their fragrance, so always burn them in a suitable glass or metal container that can withstand the heat
- Avoid lighting candles after drinking alcohol and make sure they are fully extinguished before leaving the room

## Electric heaters

- Do not air or dry clothes over a heater or place them near clothes or furniture
- Make sure that a permanent safety guard is fitted
- Don't sit too close to a heater and make sure you switch them off before you go to bed or leave the house

## Gas heaters

- When changing a gas heater cylinder try to do this in open air, otherwise, open windows and doors to increase ventilation
- Check the valve on the empty cylinder is closed before disconnecting it and do not turn on the valve of the new cylinder until it is securely connected to the heater
- Store spare cylinders upright and outside whenever possible

Follow these safety tips and enjoy a safe time this winter. Find out more by visiting [www.northantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.northantsfire.gov.uk) @NorthantsFire

