



Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

533 C St.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 441-4000

November 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : Inclement Weather Safety

Contact : Amy Conlin, Community Risk Reduction Specialist, 707-441-4000

Temperatures have dropped and we have already felt the first rains of the season. As we move into winter, there are safety considerations to make regarding driving in rain or on wet roads and keeping our living spaces warm. Every year, traffic collisions and home fires spike during the winter. Let's work together to keep ourselves and our community safe this season by following these safety tips:

Inclement Weather:

The rain has arrived, which makes driving even more dangerous. During the late Fall and Winter seasons visibility is low, built-up oils make the roads slick, and excess water and debris on roadways is more prevalent. Keep these safety tips in mind while driving:

- Keep headlights on in wet weather.
- Slow down. Allow additional time to reach your destination.
- Be aware of standing water on roadways which may cause vehicles to hydroplane.
- Keep an eye out for debris such as rocks, trees, and limbs as well as downed power lines which may have fallen during wind storms. Never approach a down power line – call 9-1-1.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded roadways; vehicles can be swept away by strong currents and fast-moving water.

Home Heating Safety:

With cold winter temperatures there is an increased use of fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and other alternative heating methods. During these cold winter months, residential fires and other emergencies caused by heating appliances are more prevalent. The following safety tips can help you maintain a safe home this winter:

- Have your furnace or wood stove inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Maintain a 3-foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment.
- Check floor heaters to make sure they are not covered by floor coverings or other combustibles.
- Install and use space heaters according to manufacturer's instructions. Do not use an extension cord for an electric-powered space heater.

- Install a carbon monoxide detector. Malfunctioning or improperly installed heating appliances can leak carbon monoxide gas, as can generators. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. Always run generators outside and away from windows and doors. Ensure proper ventilation when using any fuel-burning appliance.
- Keep young children away from heaters and stoves— especially when they are wearing pajamas or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- Keep a screen in front of fireplace openings.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start fires; use only paper or kindling to start the fire.
- Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove to avoid the build-up of creosote.
- Allow fireplace and wood stove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

#####