

FIREPLACE AND HEATING STOVE **SAFETY**

PREVENT A CHIMNEY FIRE

Home heating is a leading cause of home fires in Oregon. As temperatures drop, it's important to remember fire safety while staying warm at home.

- ✓ Have chimneys and ventilation **cleaned and inspected** yearly.
- ✓ **Don't overload your wood stove or fireplace.** Too much wood increases the risk of chimney fire.
- ✓ **Use a metal or glass fireplace screen** to contain sparks and embers to prevent sparking a fire.
- ✓ **Never leave a fire unattended,** even for a short time. Keep children and pets **at least three feet away** from the fire.
- ✓ Only use kindling, newspaper, or fire starters to start a fire.
Never use flammable liquids like kerosene, gasoline, or charcoal lighter fluid.



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SEASONED FIREWOOD

It takes **at least six months** for wood to become *seasoned*. Why is it important?

- Seasoned wood burns **hotter and more easily** than wet wood.
- Wet wood creates more smoke and creosote, a leading cause of chimney fires. **Seasoned wood burns cleaner and more completely.**
- Always store wood off the ground and at least **30 feet** from buildings.

HOW TO SEASON FIREWOOD

- 1** **Split** wood into wedges no larger than six inches thick.
- 2** **Stack** split side down, off the ground, and away from buildings.
- 3** **Cover** the top and keep the sides open so air can circulate.
- 4** **Dry** wood for six months to reduce moisture content.



Learn more
about home
heating safety:

