



American Red Cross

in Greater New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RED CROSS OFFERS TIPS FOR INDOOR HEATING, FIREPLACE AND GENERATOR SAFETY THIS WINTER

Note to editors: A Red Cross spokesperson is available to speak with you at greater length about these safety measures.

New York, NY...December 30, 2005 – With this winter’s sharply rising heating costs driving homeowners and apartment dwellers to consider supplemental heating sources, the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) offers valuable safety tips for the use of space heaters, fireplaces and generators. ARC/GNY advises caution when using any of these heat sources, which are a major cause of home heating fire deaths.

ARC/GNY urges the following safety measures for indoor heating.

Space Heaters:

According to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in a recent year, there were about 10,900 residential fires and about 190 deaths associated with portable or fixed space heaters.

- Place space heaters at least three feet away from wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets and people
- Never leave space heaters operating when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Never use space heaters to dry wet mittens or other clothing

Fireplaces and wood stoves:

- Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves each heating season
- Use a sturdy screen when burning fires
- Burn only wood—never paper or pine boughs
- Have chimney connections and flues inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned if necessary

Generators:

- Never operate a portable generator inside your home, including the basement or garage
- Do not hook up a generator directly to your home’s wiring
- Never connect a cord from a generator to a point on the permanent wiring system
- Don’t overload electrical outlets

For more winter safety tips, along with additional health, safety and preparedness information, please log onto www.nyredcross.org.

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