



*****For Immediate Release*****

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State Fire Marshal's Office
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Prepare Now to Use Central Heating Systems Safely

Olympia –The State Fire Marshal's Office recommends taking some time now to prepare for colder weather. Here are a few tips to keep your heating system running safely and efficiently:

- Furnaces should be inspected, cleaned, and serviced every year by a qualified, licensed professional to ensure safe and reliable operation.
- Keep any flammable materials at least 3 feet away from the furnace to reduce the risk of ignition.
- If the pilot light of your gas furnace goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to clear. Then, follow the manufacturer's instructions for relighting the pilot.
- If you smell gas in or around your gas furnace that does not dissipate, do not try to relight it. Evacuate and call 9-1-1.
- Keep exterior venting clear of snow, ice, and other debris to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide accumulation inside the home.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms inside your home to alert you to fire danger.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home to alert you in case of carbon monoxide accumulation.
- Develop and practice a home escape plan.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.