

# Fired Up for Payson

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The Payson Fire Department Reminds Rim Country Residents to “**Give Space Heaters Space**”

The increased cost to heat your home this winter might drive you to use supplemental heating sources whenever possible. Portable space heaters can quickly warm up a cold room, but they have also been the cause of many serious home fires. The Payson Fire Department urges you to use your space heater with care. Although fireplaces and chimneys were involved in 43 percent of all home heating fires and 11 percent of the associated deaths. Fixed and portable space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in 25 percent of the home heating fires, but unfortunately, 74 percent of the associated deaths. The Payson Fire Department recommends the following tips for winter space heater safety.

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of the Underwriters laboratory (UL). Look for devices with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.
- Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- To prevent the risk of fire, NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or place a space heater close to any sleeping person. Turn the space heater off if you leave the area.
- Space heaters have one function - to provide supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, thaw pipes or dry clothing. Misusing space heaters can put you and your family at risk of fire or burn injuries.
- Keep the heater's power supply cord away from high-traffic areas in your home. You don't want people walking on or tripping over the cord. Don't use extension cords with electrical space heaters. The high amount of current they require could melt the cord and start a fire.
- Never use a gas range as a substitute for a furnace or space heater.
- Have any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation and in accordance to the manufactures instructions.
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install alarms in a central location and inside each sleeping area.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. CO is tasteless, odorless, and invisible. CO poisoning is often confused for being ill from the flu or common cold.

Until next time be “**Fired Up**” about fire safety in your home.