



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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**HEATING SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON
NOW IS THE TIME TO CHECK YOUR HEATING SYTEM**

We're getting to the end of summer and heating season will soon be here and the high-energy prices concern fire officials according to State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan. This is the time to check your heating systems. Having your heating system checked by a qualified professional will help insure the system is ready to operate safely and also of great importance, will use the fuel efficiently. Heating unit fires are still the number one cause of fires in New Hampshire and they are preventable!

According to the President of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs, Lebanon Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos, heating fires are often the result of improper installations, use or maintenance of supplemental home heating appliances, such as wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters. Chief Christopoulos also warns that the use of these supplemental heating devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed and maintained. Now is the time to have them checked.

Degnan also advises that it is critical that every home has interconnected smoke alarms on each floor level and that every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly along with matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children at all times.

For further information concerning home fire safety, contact your local fire department or the state fire marshal's office.