

# FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS

**We hope you'll have an enjoyable and safe holiday and winter season. To make certain your hearth is safe, HPBA Pacific Affiliate makes the following safety recommendations:**

- Make certain that the damper is open and the chimney is clear prior to lighting a wood, pellet, or gas fire.
- All chimneys should have a rain cap and spark arrester to prevent roof fires.
- Always have a sturdy tool set close to the fire for tending.
- Keep matches and lighters hidden from small children.
- Have either a glass or close-mesh screen in front of a wood burning fire to contain sparks.
- Place furniture and your Christmas tree at least four feet away from the fireplace.
- Any decoration or stockings should hang at the sides of the mantle.
- For the sake of the environment and possible floating sparks, never burn wrapping paper or other items in your hearth.
- Keep the remote control (if available) out of the reach of children. Install a switch lock to prevent children from turning on the appliance.
- Make sure family members and guests are aware that the glass panel of a gas fireplace, stove or insert can be very hot.
- Wait for the appliance and glass panel to cool down before allowing anyone to get near it. Cool down can take a long time – an hour or more. Some appliances turn on and off automatically with a thermostat, so you may not know when the fire turned off. Always consider the glass as potentially hot.
- Be aware that metal surfaces, such as door frames and grilles, may also get hot.
- Always watch young children when a fire is going. Fire is very attractive.
- Teach your children to leave the fireplace tending to you.
- Check your smoke detectors for fresh batteries regularly.
- Always follow any instructions given by your hearth products manufacturers.



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