

LOCUST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS



Fireplace Safety

There is nothing more appealing on a cold winter's night than a blazing fireplace and the warm glow of candles. Burning the yule log on the hearth gives a sense of winter warmth and Christmas cheer. To keep the home fires burning safely, follow these safety tips and remember to never leave a fire or candles unattended!

- Gift wrappings, boxes, cartons and other types of packing must not be burned in the fireplace. They burn too rapidly and generate far too much heat for that type of structure.
- Don't hang Christmas stockings from the fireplace mantel when the fireplace is in use.
- Always use a screen in front of the fireplace to protect against flying sparks.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned and dried wood. Do not use pressure treated wood.
- Clean the ashes regularly. Place the ashes in a metal container and store outside away from combustible or flammable materials.

Year Round Maintenance

Have your chimney professionally inspected and cleaned at least once a year, prior to the start of the heating season. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not properly cleaned. Always protect your home and your family by using a sturdy screen in front of your fireplace.