

Ulster County Winter Watch

**Winter is coming ● Stay Self-Reliant
Help Your Neighbors**

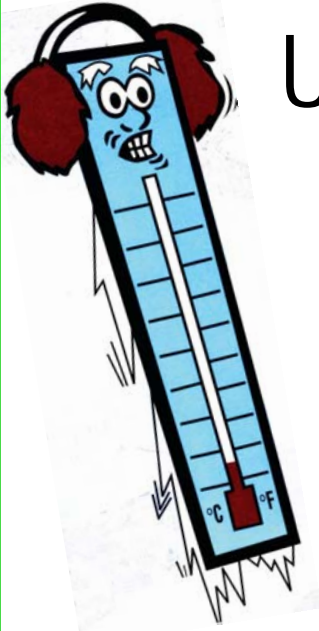
Fire Safety

Wood burning stoves, fireplaces and heaters must be used safely.

1. Always keep a screen around an open flame.
2. Never use gasoline to start your fireplace.
3. Never burn charcoal indoors.
4. Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
5. When using alternate heat sources such as fireplaces, woodstoves, etc, always make sure you have proper ventilation. Keep curtain, towels and all combustibles away from hot surfaces.
6. Have your chimney cleaned before heating season to remove any accumulated creosote.
7. Have a fire extinguisher, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. And make sure they work! Establish an escape route for the family.



www.co.ulster.ny.us for future advisories.



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Kerosene Heaters

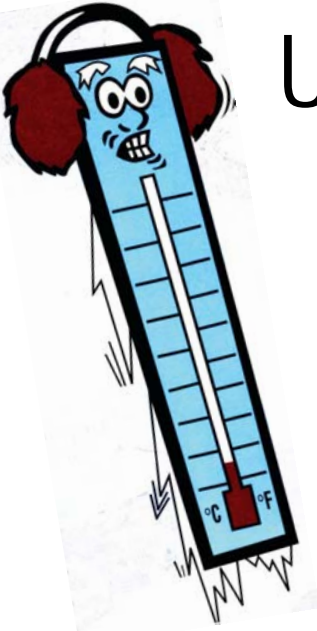
If you use kerosene heaters to supplement your regular heat, or as an emergency source of heat, follow these safety tips:

1. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Use only the correct fuel for your unit.
3. Refuel outdoors **only**, and wait until unit is cool.
4. Keep the heater at least three feet away from furniture and other combustible objects.
5. When using the heater have a fire extinguisher available.
6. Use with adequate ventilation.
7. Make sure the use of kerosene heaters is not against regulations in your municipality.

Remember, the risk of fire is increased in the winter because of alternate fuel appliances that are often used without proper safety precautions.



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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a silent deadly killer claiming about 1,000 lives each year in the United States. Automobile exhaust, home heating systems, and obstructed chimneys can produce the odorless, colorless gas. The gas can also be produced by poorly vented generators, kerosene heaters, gas grills and other items when used for cooking and heating when used improperly during the winter months.

NEVER run generators indoors.

NEVER use charcoal to cook indoors.

NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home.

Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, call 911 immediately.



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Hypothermia and Frostbite

Prolonged exposure to the cold temperatures can cause hypothermia; people working or playing outdoors during the winter can develop frostbite and not even know it.

Symptoms of Hypothermia:

1. Inability to concentrate
2. Poor coordination
3. Slurred speech
4. Drowsiness
5. Exhaustion
6. Uncontrolled shivering followed by a sudden lack of shivering

Get medical assistance immediately! Remove wet clothing and wrap the patient in warm blankets, give warm non-caffeinated, non-alcohol liquids.

Symptoms of Frostbite:

1. First, the skin may feel numb and become flushed. Then it turns white or grayish yellow. Frostbitten skin may feel cold to the touch.
2. If frostbite is suspected, move the patient to a warm area. Cover the affected area with something warm and dry. Never rub it!
3. Get the patient to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible, or call 911.



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