



**AMMON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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Please consider this checklist in preparing your home for winter and the holiday season:

**Wood Stoves and Fireplaces**

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually, even if it has not been used for some time;
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire;
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening;
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces;
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in a fireplace, a closed damper will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house;
- Never burn charcoal indoors, doing so can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide;
- Stoves should have adequate clearance of 36 inches from all combustible surfaces;

**Furnace Heating**

- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line, if the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required;
- Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified;
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition;
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from heating systems/sources;

**Other Fire Safety Tips**

- Never discard hot ashes inside plastic containers or near the home, place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house;
- If you use an electric heater, do not overload the circuit. Only use extension cords that have the necessary minimum rating to avoid overheating of the cord;
- Avoid using electric heaters in areas where they may come in contact with water;
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke detector;

**Holiday Safety Tips**

- Keep holiday decorations away from sources of direct heat;
- Use only indoor lights on the interior of the home, never use frayed or worn light strings;
- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords;
- Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of the snow;
- Have a fire extinguisher available;

**Christmas Tree Safety**

- Leave the tree outside until you are ready to decorate;
- Cut one inch off the trunk to help it absorb water;
- A proper tree stand should hold a minimum of one gallon of water;
- Keep the tree away from all heat sources and check the water level daily;
- Make sure the tree is secured and cannot be knocked over;
- Use indoor miniature lights that have cool-burning bulbs;
- Always turn off the tree lights when going to bed or leaving the house;
- Dispose of the tree properly after the holidays.

Candles are often part of holiday decorations. Candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, or after going to bed. Candles should not be accessible to children or where guests will accidentally brush against them. The candle holder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over. Candles should not have combustible decorations around them and should never be used on Christmas trees.

If you have any questions or would like us to assist you in identification of fire safety concerns, please contact the Ammon Fire Department at 612-4061.