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From the Department of Emergency Services

Keeping Warm in the Winter Months and Smoke Detection

Limerick Township's Department of Emergency Services would like to share some helpful tips when it comes to alternative home heating methods during this time of the year. If you have questions or safety concerns and are not sure about anything you are about to try, PLEASE contact Limerick Township's Department of Emergency Services and we will be more than happy to assist you in any way possible. Limerick Township's Department of Emergency Services' number one priority is the safety of the residents and the community of Limerick Township. Any questions or concerns, please contact our department at **610-495-6432** and use extensions **119** (Shaun Semmeles, Fire Marshal) or **160** (Matt Markland, Assistant Fire Marshal). Either above personnel will be able to assist you with your questions regarding alternative methods for home heating and/or smoke detection and carbon monoxide detection.

Please reference the following helpful tips and information regarding alternative methods for home heating:

- When utilizing a space heater, never plug them into an extension cord, surge protector or a multi-plug adapter.
- When utilizing a space heater plug them directly into a wall outlet and remember all space heaters must have a minimum clearance of 3 feet from any combustible material.
- Space heaters should only be used as a temporary heat source. They are not intended for permanent use, which may cause overheating and pose a fire danger.
- Always remember to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector batteries regularly, at least annually but monthly checks are recommended.
- Smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector locations:
 - One in every bedroom
 - One in every common habitable space in the household
 - A good rule of thumb for smoke detector placement is if two rooms are separated by a door then both rooms should have their own smoke detector.
 - One carbon monoxide detector per floor in common spaces (i.e. basements, living rooms and hallways outside the bedrooms)
- The maximum life span of a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector is ten (10) years, after that they should and must be replaced.
- Remember when utilizing a household extension cord, especially around the holidays for decorations, that they are intended for temporary use and should be treated as such and not used for permanent wiring.
- When using exterior decorations, remember to use approved and listed exterior equipment designed to handle the weather elements.
- Remember to regularly water your Christmas trees, and when utilizing a fireplace, remember to dispose of your ashes responsibly and clean your chimneys annually.

- If utilizing candles please try to use the battery operated and much safer versions, than the original. If you must use the original candles please remember, never leave them unattended or in close proximity to combustible materials.
- Make sure that your address numbers are clearly posted and visible from the street so that help (if needed) can find you right away.
- Have a family evacuation plan and practice that evacuation plan in an event of an emergency. Remember to **GET OUT AND STAY OUT.**
- **IN THE EVENT OF ANY EMERGENCY PLEASE FIRST DIAL 9-1-1 TO START HELP RIGHT AWAY.**

If you need any help or questions answered about fire safety in your home, Limerick Township's Department of Emergency Services is only one phone call away at **610-495-6432**. Thank you for your attention to safety awareness.

Shaun Semmeles
Limerick Township Fire Marshal