

Fire Safety Tips

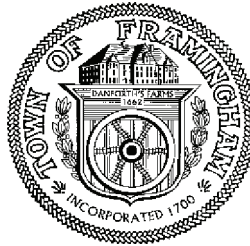
- ❶ Clean your chimneys, fireplaces, and woodstoves annually
- ❷ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of fireplace openings
- ❸ Reduce or eliminate the use of electrical extension cords
- ❹ Do not leave burning candles unattended and keep them clear of combustibles
- ❺ Do not place things that can burn too close to space and portable heaters
- ❻ Have professionals properly install all heating devices and obtain building permits when necessary
- ❼ Do not leave space or portable heaters unattended
- ❽ Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Inspect monthly and change batteries in the spring and in the fall
- ❾ Never use liquid fuel heating appliances like kerosene heaters in a home
- ❿ Be sure heating equipment is in good working condition and have it serviced annually by a professional

For more information on these and other fire prevention tips, contact the Framingham Fire Department at 508-532-5930.



Some Ways To Use Energy Wisely

- ✓ Don't Block Radiators or vents with furniture or drapes
- ✓ Close curtains at night to cut down on heat loss
- ✓ Bleed air trapped to radiators to improve water circulation
 - ✓ Have dripping faucets fixed
 - ✓ Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees
 - ✓ Take showers instead of baths
- ✓ Always put a full load of clothes in the washer and do two or more dryer loads in a row
- ✓ Don't try and heat the house with the stove or range
- ✓ Turn off lights when you leave a room and they are not needed



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

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The Town of Framingham does not endorse any program or company that may or may not be listed in this brochure nor does it contend that this document represents an exhaustive list of services or safety tips available. This brochure is intended to provide select safety tips and general information about some assistance options that may be available to residents. It is not intended to assert eligibility for any program listed herein.

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

WINTER HOME HEAT RESOURCE GUIDE



Stay safe, Stay warm

Winter 2013 – 2014

WINTER HOME HEATING RESOURCES

TOWN RESOURCES

- **Board of Health:** Enforces State law requirements that landlords adequately heat their rental properties (508-532-5470).
- **Callahan Senior Center:** Provides senior citizens with information and referral for benefits programs (508-532-5980).
- **Community & Economic Development:** Offers limited financial resources through CDBG program to income-eligible Framingham residents for emergency energy-related repairs to heating systems (508-532-5457).
- **Veterans Services:** Provides financial and fuel assistance to income eligible veterans and their widows (508-532-5515).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Citizens Energy Corporation:** An oil heat program for income eligible customers in need of oil. The Distirgas program provides a credit on natural gas bills (877-563-4645 or www.citizensenergy.com).
- **Energy Bucks:** Provides fuel assistance, utility discounts, and weatherization (866-537-7267 or www.energybucks.com).
- **Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and**

Community Development HEARTWAP: Heating Emergency Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP) provides heating system repair and replacement services to low income households (800-632-8175).

- **Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance:** An oil cooperative (co-op) that Framingham residents can join and thereby save an average of 10% to 20% off their current fuel bill (800-287-3950 or www.massenergy.org).
- **Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund:** Individuals and families with a household income exceeding fuel assistance guidelines can receive financial assistance with heating costs. Provides \$275 per heating season paid directly to the energy provider (i.e. electric, gas, oil, wood, or propane). Run through Salvation Army (508-875-3341 or www.magoodneighbor.org).
- **MassSAVE:** Program services including educational materials/services; in-home services for customers who plan to invest in energy savings improvements; step-by-step guidance through the installation of energy-saving measures and incentives; quality installations performed by fully licensed and insured contractors who warrant all workmanship and materials for one year; and inspections (866-527-7283 or www.masssave.com).

NSTAR: Qualified individuals and families can receive discounted electricity and gas rates. Arrears forgiveness programs are also available on a case by case basis. Also offers home winterization incentives/assistance (800-592-2000).

- **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT):** Provides short term, limited financial assistance which will enable families to retain housing, obtain new housing, or otherwise avoid homelessness (800-224-5124 or www.masshousinginfo.org/agencies).
- **South Middlesex Opportunity Council:** Administers Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to individuals and families that meet specific income eligibility guidelines. (508-620-2300)
- **United Way of Tri-County/Mass211:** Provides a comprehensive listing of resources and programs available to Massachusetts residents (508-872-3291 or www.mass211help.org).
- **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):** The Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) assists low-income households in reducing heating bills by providing comprehensive home energy conservation services. Homeowners and tenants with their landlord permission are eligible (800-632-8175 or www.mass.gov).