

Every year, more than 10,000 home fires are caused by fireplaces in the US



## Important tips to remember:

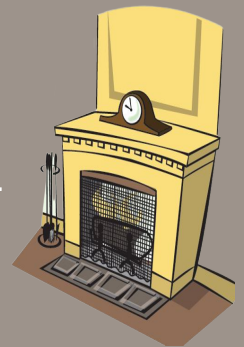
- Keep chimneys clean and clear
- Maintain a pet/kid-free zone around the fireplace
- Have working carbon monoxide alarms
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house

## General Safety

- Fireplaces should not be used as a furnace or as a long-term source of heat.
- Have a reputable chimney sweep inspect and clean the chimney at least once a year or after about 80 fires.
- Open a window to prevent the room from becoming smoky. The air coming in from the window will go up the chimney.

## Using Your Fireplace

- Open the damper for proper ventilation. Leave it open until the fire is extinguished to prevent smoke from entering the home.
- Use a metal or heat-tempered glass fireplace screen and install a screen barrier. Fireplace doors can reach temperatures up to 1,300 degrees.
- Use fireplace tools to handle burning logs. Never use your hands.



## Wood-Burning Fireplace



- Coals can remain hot enough to start a fire for up to three days. Always wait before removing ashes. Use a shovel to scoop the ashes into a metal container. Store the container far from combustible materials (i.e. furniture, wood decking).
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use artificial logs according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Never burn more than one log at a time.

## Gas Fireplace



- Keep fireplace "on" switches and remotes out of reach of children.
- Screens reduce risks of serious burns by creating a barrier. Remember, screen barriers can retain heat.
- Never place decorations or drapes directly against the glass.