

# Wood Heat Safety Fact Sheet



Sitting around a campfire or a fireplace is a classic Saskatchewan tradition, regardless of the season.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) encourages residents around the province to enjoy indoor and outdoor fires while keeping public safety in mind.

If you have a fire pit, check the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual for how to safely layout your yard. All homes should have a 10 metre fire resistant zone, free of any material that could easily ignite.

This means the fire pit, as well as stacked firewood, needs to be at least 10 metres away from the house.

**Here are some safety tips to minimize the risk:**

- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood.
- Check chimneys and flue pipes often for creosote, soot and debris build up. Keep these clean to prevent chimney fires.

- Maintain your chimney cap to prevent against snow or rain damage.
- Inspect spark screens on chimney caps to make sure smoke can vent properly.
- Keep a safe distance between woodstoves and fireplaces.
- Use a properly fitting screen for your fireplace or fire pit to keep sparks and embers contained.
- Ash from woodstoves and fireplaces needs to cool before being emptied into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Store the container outside.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas - and ensure that every bedroom has a smoke alarm.