

Township of
Langley



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NEWS RELEASE

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WINTER WEATHER TIPS HELP KEEP HOMES SAFE AND WARM

Winter will soon be on its way, bringing with it darker days, colder weather, and storms. It is the time of year when people strive to stay warm and cozy inside – but more home fires occur in winter than in any other season.

“Half of all heating fires happen in December, January, and February,” said Township of Langley Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Krista Barton. “Knowing what to do before, during, and after a storm will help keep you and your family safe.”

The following tips are offered by the Township Fire Department to help residents stay fire smart during the cold winter season.

- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates and make sure you and your family are prepared for storms and power outages.
- Have flashlights and batteries on hand and never use candles.
- Be ready in case the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least one metre (3 feet) away.
- Check on neighbours who may need help.
- If you see a downed power wire, stay at least 10 metres or a bus-length away (33 feet). Report any fallen or broken power lines by calling 911 and ensure all other bystanders stay at least 10 metres away from the line.
- Generators should only be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- When using portable heaters during the winter, turn them off when you leave the room or go to bed.

- Clear the driveway and sidewalk of ice and snow to provide easy access to your home and make sure your house address number can be seen from the street. If you need help, first responders will be able to find and get to you.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month to ensure they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in the home as well.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency.

For more information, visit tol.ca/firesafety or call the Township of Langley Fire Department at 604.532.7500.