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Stay safe during winter

JOURNAL STAFF

The hustle and bustle of the holidays is among us. Don't let the chaotic season take away from important safety precautions that should be taken each winter. Increased amounts of family cooking, decorating and harsh winter weather all contribute to an increased risk of hazards.

In addition to annual precautions, be especially sure to prepare for harsh winter weather as this year our area is expected to see La Niña conditions (cold, wet and snowy).

Follow these safety tips from Lake Stevens Fire to help keep you and your family safe throughout the season:

- Keep a 3-foot "safe zone" around all heaters and fireplaces and have your heating system tuned up each year.
- Dress appropriately for the weather, paying close attention to nose, ears, feet and hands.
- Don't try to thaw pipes or spigots with heat guns or blow torches. Heat can build up inside the walls and start a fire.
- Keep a winter emergency kit in your car that includes blanket, gloves, shovel, etc. See wsdot.wa.gov for a detailed list.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Keep lit candles away from anything that can burn and make sure they are in a sturdy, fireproof holder. Blow out candles when you leave a room.
- Never use the stove, oven or BBQ as a source of heat. BBQs should never be used inside the home as it will cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms.

For more winter safety tips, visit the following website www.lsfire.org/Publications/Brochures.