

# Major Storm Safety

**Prevent fires, electrical shock and carbon monoxide poisoning when coping with a disaster.**

- **Use flashlights instead of candles if the power goes out.**

*If the power is still out, try to use flashlights and battery operated candles instead of traditional candles for light. When using lighted candles:*

- *Burn candles inside a one-foot circle of safety free of anything that can burn.*
- *Extinguish after use; never leave candles burning unattended.*
- *Use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candle holder or saucer.*
- *Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets.*

- **Cooking Safety**

*Use charcoal or LP-gas grills outdoors; never bring a gas or charcoal grill inside due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.*

*Stoves and ovens cannot do the job of heating systems and can easily overheat and cause a fire.*

*Opening the door of the gas oven pours carbon monoxide into the home.*

- **Use generators outdoors only.**

*Generators and other fuel powered machines should be used outside the home. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.*

- **Fire chiefs across the state are concerned that people using generators handle gasoline safely and properly.**

*Gasoline should never be stored inside the home as there are so many possible ignition sources. Gasoline vapors will travel and find a heat source.*

*All gasoline must be stored in approved containers designed to hold gasoline safely (look for the mark of a national testing laboratory such as UL).*

*Store gasoline outside, away from the house.*



## **FireFACTORS**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Department of Fire Services**

P.O. BOX 1025 STATE ROAD • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS 01775 • 978-567-3300 • WWW.MASS.GOV/DFS

- **Use caution with alternative heating and cooking appliances.**

*With power out for an extended period of time, people may use fireplaces and woodstoves continuously for days that can cause fires.*

*Keep anything that can burn three feet away from the fireplace or wood, coal or pellet stoves.*

*Dispose of ashes from woodstoves and fireplaces in a metal container with a lid, away from the house, garage or deck.*

*During windy conditions, a sudden downdraft could blow the fire out of the fireplace into the room. Always use a screen to keep sparks and embers contained.*

*Do not use a charcoal or propane grill inside the home. This could pose a carbon monoxide or an explosion hazard.*

*Stoves and ovens cannot do the job of heating systems and can easily overheat and cause a fire when overworked.*

*Opening the door of the gas oven pours carbon monoxide into the home.*

- **Unvented Kerosene Heaters Illegal**

*Due to the severe risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, as well as fire, it is illegal to use unvented kerosene heaters and construction salamanders inside homes. These are designed for use on construction sites where the flow of air is significantly greater.*

- **Remember Water and Electricity Do Not Mix!**

*Watch for downed wires. All downed wires should be considered "live". Be sure to explain this to children.*

*Do not venture into a flooded basement. If the outlets or the fuse box in the basement is under water, it could electrically charge the water and electrocute you. Flooded water may contain untreated sewage and cause serious health problems.*

- **Preventing Frozen Pipes**

*Let the water drip from faucets. Running water – even at a trickle – helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it will be above freezing. If you have some heat inside the home, open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors, but be sure to move harmful chemicals and cleaners out of reach of children.*