

Nationally, the leading cause of residential building fires is cooking at 47%; heating is the second cause at 19%.

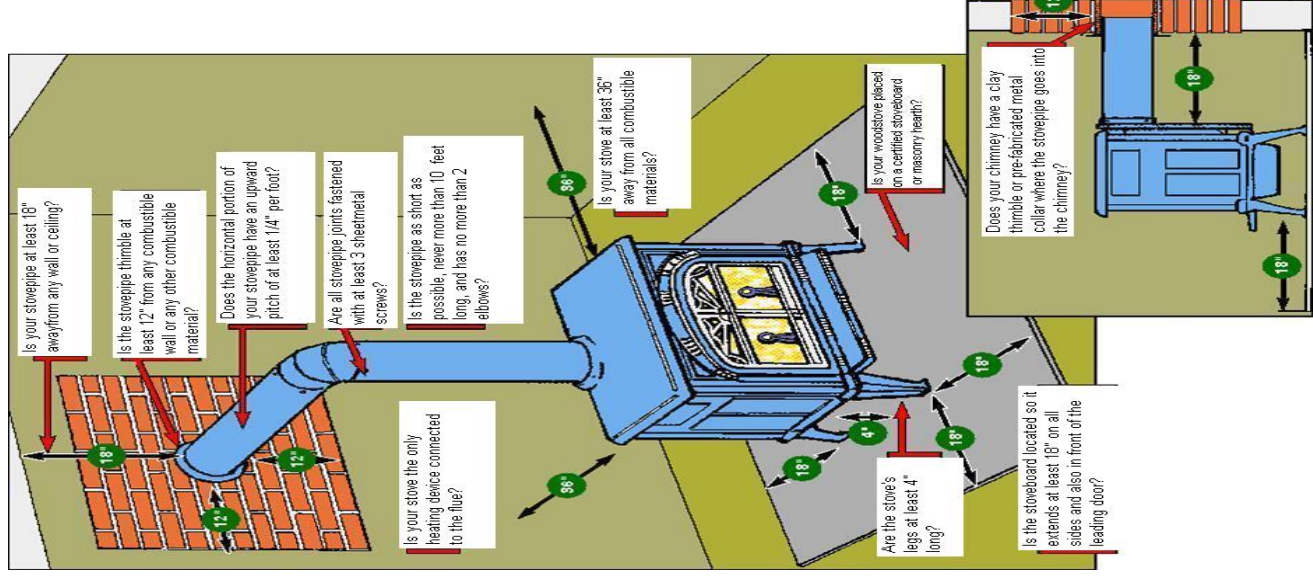
In New Hampshire, as in the late 1970s and early 1980s, heating continues to be the leading cause of home fires, due to a surge in the use of alternative heating sources ie: space heaters, wood stoves, pellet stoves, ovens and Kerosene heaters.

This surge is stimulated in large part by an energy shortage and current energy costs.

The pattern of heating fires is prevalent throughout the year. As would be expected, heating fires begin to increase during the fall and continue to increase through the winter.

Failure to properly install and maintain heating equipment (chimneys, fireplaces and heating stoves) account for 37% of all residential building fires.

In 2006 81% of 3,245 fire deaths occurred in residential occupancies



Woodstove Prevention Guidelines

Is the stove listed by an independent testing lab ie: UL?

Is the woodstove arranged so that there is at least 36 inches clearance from any combustible?

Is the stove stable and free from cracks? Is the bottom lined with 2 inches of sand, rebrick or a grate on which the wood is placed?

Smoke pipe clearances are required to be three times the distance the diameter of the smoke pipe away from combustibles. ie: a six inch smoke pipe would have to be at least 18" away from combustible surface.

Is the smoke pipe in satisfactory condition (free of cracks, rust holes and damage) with at least three sheet metal screws at each joint?

Is there a damper installed in the smoke pipe or built into the stove?

Is there a hearth or shield to protect the floor from flying embers? Does the hearth or shield extend at least 18" beyond the sides of the woodstove?

Is the chimney in satisfactory condition and free from creosote? To prevent creosote build up you should burn 1 year seasoned hard wood.

Masonry constructed chimneys should be lined.

Is there an accessible clean out door on the chimney?

Wood stoves shall not be vented in the

same flue serving another type of fuel unless listed for such use.

Contact your local Fire Department for additional information or the N.H. Fire Marshal's Office.

This information is being provided by the State Fire Marshal's Office to aid home owners in making a safe and informed decision on the installation of woodstoves

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Be sure every level of your home has a working interconnected smoke alarm and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Have a Carbon Monoxide Detector installed and working properly
- A fire extinguisher should be located on every floor of your home.
- A metal can with a cover should be available for ash disposal. After placing the ashes into the can place the can outside away from any structure or combustibles.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in a while.

- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Get out and stay out never go back in for anything.
- Call 911 in case of an emergency

Woodstove Safety for Everyone



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