Fire Safety Bulletin – Heating Season Safety Tips

As the weather cools and we approach winter, following these fire safety tips will ensure a safe environment for all. Whether here at the University, or at home, Fire Prevention is our best defense against fires.

- Make certain smoke detectors are installed on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. Install Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors outside of all sleeping areas. These detectors should be tested monthly.

- Have your heating systems and chimneys inspected, cleaned and repaired prior to the heating season.

- Fireplaces and wood burning stoves should be inspected annually and cleaned as needed. Fireplaces should be fitted with a glass front or a mesh screen to protect against flying sparks.

- Only use space heaters with the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) safety listing. The heater should be placed on the floor, away from combustible materials (3 feet) and out of high traffic areas. Never leave the heater unattended, and unplug the unit when going to bed or leaving the house. [Note: Space heaters are not permitted in any St. John’s residential building.]

- If you smell natural gas in your home or apartment, evacuate immediately and use a phone outside to call the proper authorities.

Please refer your questions or comments to:

Robert Gleason,
University Fire Safety Director
(718) 990-2587 or
gleasonr@stjohns.edu