Dear Family,

It’s winter! The days are shorter, the outside temperature is lower, and in some places it’s cold, icy, and snowy. No matter where you live, winter brings a change in season and a time to think about home-heating safety.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed the following safety tips and fun family activity to help you stay safe this winter.

Best wishes for a warm and safe winter season!

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**Sparky’s Home-Heating Safety Tips**

Hang this checklist on your refrigerator to remember to stay safe and warm this (and every!) winter.

**Safety tips:**

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heating equipment (furnace, woodstove, or portable heater).
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
The __________ family enjoyed a __________ dinner of cheesy __________ and buttery __________. Their pet, __________, begged for __________ at their feet.

"____________, it’s cold in here!" said __________. "Let’s set up the space heater."

"After dinner," said __________. "First you have to move your __________. We need to leave three feet of space around the heater."

"Can we light a fire in the fireplace instead?" asked __________. "Then he won’t have to move his stinky __________."

"Very __________," said __________. "Well, we did have the chimney cleaned and inspected this year. I also put a new screen in front of the fireplace."

"Plus, we tested our smoke alarms just last week," said __________. "____________!" shouted __________. "The __________ glow of the fireplace always makes me __________."

"____________" exclaimed __________, "____________ around the room.

The __________ laughed and enjoyed the __________ fireplace.

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