



Saving Energy Safely

With Woodburning Stoves and Fireplaces -- Unit I

Years ago, our grandparents used wood- and coal-burning fireplaces and stoves to heat their homes. These were the only ways they had to keep warm during the winter.

Then electricity and natural gas made central heating and air conditioning easy. People closed up their fireplaces and removed their woodburning stoves.

Today, modern families are again using woodburning fireplaces and stoves. They do this to save money and fuels.

The prices of electricity, home heating oil, and natural gas have gone up. It's no longer cheap to heat homes this way. Families can buy wood or cut their own to heat their homes for less.

If you have heat from a wood fire, your electric, gas, or oil heating unit doesn't have to run as much. This means less fossil fuel* is used, and it also means the family pays less. Boys and girls today help their families by cutting and stacking firewood and by conserving energy in their homes in other ways.

Saving energy using woodburning fireplaces and stoves is great. But unless we're careful, our wood stoves and fireplaces can cause personal injury or home fires. Take this wood-burning safety quiz to see how you rate as a Super Saver in woodburning safety.

*Fossil fuels come from decayed plant and animal matter. After thousands of years, the decayed matter forms oil, coal, or natural gas underground. These fuels are called nonrenewable because we can't make more. Wood is called renewable because we can grow more to replace what we use.

True or False?

Circle T for True and F for False.

- T F 1. A good safety test is to feel surfaces near your stove. If the wall or floor is hot, your stove is too close.
- T F 2. Keep things that will burn—wood, magazines, chairs—at least 36 inches from the stove or fireplace.
- T F 3. Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start a fire in a fireplace or stove.
- T F 4. Before adding wood to a fire, remove loose clothing that could catch fire.
- T F 5. Coal may be burned in any stove or fireplace.
- T F 6. Keep ashes in any convenient container such as a cardboard box or can.
- T F 7. Remove items from around the stove that might cause someone to trip and fall against the stove or into the fireplace.
- T F 8. It's okay to burn trash in the stove or fireplace.
- T F 9. The chimney need not be cleaned if you always burn a hot fire.
- T F 10. Only houses with a fireplace or wood burning stove need a smoke detector.

How did you do? Score yourself from the answers on the back. Rate yourself as follows:

Super Saver—9 to 10 correct: Share your smartness with someone.

Clever Clover—6 to 8 correct: If you don't get careless, you'll end up a Super Saver.

Singed Whiskers—4 to 5 correct: Your whiskers will grow back; hope you learned something.

Walking Time Bomb—0 to 3 correct: Quick, learn something about safety in the 4-H Safety project.

Acknowledgement

This publication was prepared by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service/Auburn University, Alabama by Genta Speakman, Home Economist — Housing and Equipment, and Margaret St. John, Safety Assistant, with Deborah Stabler 4-H Specialist — Education Aids and Information. It was reprinted with permission for use in North Carolina.

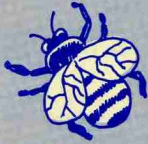
Published by

THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

North Carolina State University at Raleigh, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University at Greensboro, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperating, State University Station, Raleigh, N. C., Chester D. Black, Director. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. The North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, or national origin, and is an equal opportunity employer.

Energy Action Safety Acrostic

Here's Super Saver's energy safety motto.
He wants all of us to remember it as we try to conserve energy.
Fill in the blanks below with letters to form the words.



-at+



-sch

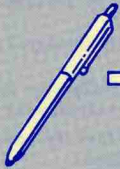
S

+



-

W



-P

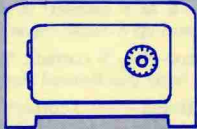
+



-

riv

+ gy



+



-

F

Super Saver's Motto



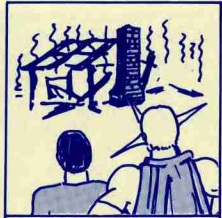
There's nothing like a nice fire to take the chill off a room.



Think I'll just toss in this trash to burn. It's too cold for a trip to the garbage.



Oh, no!



There IS nothing like a fire to take the chill off a room!

What if everyone in your town or community knew how to save energy safely?

There would be fewer accidents and fires, right? Maybe not.

You see, just *knowing* how to save energy and how to be safe isn't enough. You've got to do something about it to get any results.

Super Saver says you *can* do something—join

the energy action team. Look at this checklist for saving energy safely. These are some ways you can save energy and avoid accidents, too. When you have done at least eight of the activities, you'll rate as a Youth Energy Action (YEA) Team member.

Remember: take action today for energy tomorrow.

Super Saver's "Saving Energy Safely" Checklist

Directions: Read through the list. Find at least eight activities you will do. Check the "I will" block beside each one you choose. After you complete the activity, fill in the date you did it.

You may need to read back over the first part of this leaflet to find out how to do some of these activities. Taking the True/False Quiz first will also help.

- | | I Will | Date Done |
|--|--------|-----------|
| 1. Check your house for a smoke detector. Where is it?
_____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Draw the inside of your house and write up a fire escape plan. Attach your work to this sheet.
_____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. With your family, conduct a fire escape drill. Plan the escape routes and arrange a meeting place outside.
_____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Post the phone numbers by your telephone for the police department, doctor, and hospital. List them here also:
police _____
fire department _____
doctor _____
hospital _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. If you have small children or elderly persons living in your house, call the fire department and ask for child locator stickers. Put them in the bedroom window of the children and elderly.
_____ | _____ | _____ |

6. Ask your parents whether your home insurance covers fire caused by woodburning stoves or fireplaces.

___yes ___no

I Will

Date Done

7. Find a wood stove or fireplace to take care of. It may be in your home or in the home of a friend or relative. Do the following activities. Make sure an adult is present in case you need help.

___a. clean out the ashes.

___b. dispose of the ashes properly.

___c. locate the damper and learn to operate it.

___d. check around and under the fireplace or stove for the proper nonflammable guard.

___e. check for a screen across the fireplace opening. If there isn't one, tell an adult.

___f. stack wood for a fire.

___g. light a fire properly in the fireplace or stove.

8. Cut wood and stack it so it can dry. Check wood for insects before bringing it into the house.

9. Check the place where wood is stored inside the house. Is it a safe distance from the fireplace or stove? _____

10. Check the distance from a wood-burning stove to:
the wall: ___inches
the floor: ___inches
Is this a safe distance? _____

11. Check the flue for a build-up of soot. Could you see any?
___yes ___no

12. Make a poster, bulletin board or exhibit about saving energy. Where did you display your work? _____

13. Make a list of the best types of wood to burn for certain uses. (Attach it to this sheet.) Collect a leaf or cross section of limb of at least four good fireplace woods. Show them to your 4-H agent.

14. Talk to an older person who grew up using a woodburning stove or fireplace. List ways he or she used the stoves and fireplaces.

15. Give a talk on using wood for heat. What did you learn?

16. Make your own logs by rolling newspapers. Ask your 4-H agent for directions on how to do it.

I agree that _____ name _____ has completed these activities as marked.

Parent or Guardian

Answers to Wood Burning Safety Quiz

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. T 8. F 9. F 10. F