

AMES INSURANCE CENTER

FEBRUARY 2012

amesinsurancecenter.com

Did you know?

A few random facts about Iowa.

- ◇ Sabula is Iowa's only town on an island
- ◇ Donna Reed, an Oscar winning actress, is from Denison
- ◇ John Wayne (born Marion Robert Morrison) is from Winterset
- ◇ Elk Horn is the largest Danish settlement in the U.S.
- ◇ The state's smallest city park is located in the middle of the road in Hiteman
- ◇ Ripley's Believe it or Not dubbed Burlington's Snake Alley the most crooked street in the world.

Source: www.50states.com

537 Main Street

Ames, IA 50010

515.663.8750

Fax 515.663.8752

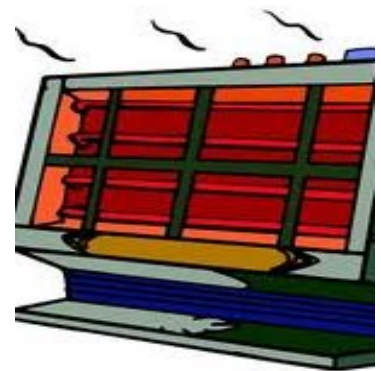


SPACE HEATER SAFETY

We really can't complain about the lovely weather in Iowa at the beginning of Winter but it was bound to get cold at some point. Now begins the season of wooly socks, fireplaces... and space heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters were to blame for 18% of all reported house fires in 2009 (as well as 480 deaths). Here are a few tips to avoid being a part of that statistic this year.

- ◆ Keep flammable things away from heaters. This includes furniture, clothing, bedding, etc. Heaters must even be placed three feet from walls.
 - ◆ Space heaters are only meant for supplemental
- ◆ heat. Don't warm bedding with them or dry clothing.
 - ◆ Ensure the heater is equipped with a 'tip-over switch'. This will switch off the heater automatically when/if it gets knocked over.
 - ◆ Extension cords should be avoided as many are not able to handle the power of the heater.
 - ◆ Do not use heaters overnight in bedrooms
 - ◆ Do not use in wet places like bathrooms
 - ◆ Avoid liquid fuel powered space heaters.

We hope you stay warm and safe as well this winter!



WATER PIPE BURSTS

Most people have heard a horror story about freezing pipes that have burst. Do you know why it happens? Just because ice forms in the pipes does not necessarily mean the pipe will burst. When so much ice forms that it creates a blockage, problems start. The water cannot get through when

there is a blockage so pressure builds up around the blockage and can burst down the pipe (not just near the blockage).

There are a number of ways to avoid pipes bursting. The obvious way is to keep the pipes warm. Make sure your pipes have proper insulation

around them and keep the house at a warm temperature even when you're not home. Also, letting the faucet drip or run is another way to avoid pressure building up. This is a waste of water so only do this with pipes that may be prone to freezing because of being unprotected or unheated.