

Chimney Fires Signs

- Sparks and flames seen from the chimney top.
- A loud roaring noise from the chimney.
- Chimney breast of flue heating up.
- A chimney fire may also be silent and slow burning with none of the above signs.



What to do if you have a Chimney Fire?

- Place a spark-guard in front of the fire to stop hot soot from falling out.
- Dial 112 or 999 and ask for the Fire Service and keep watchful eye on fire.
- Move furniture & carpets away from the fire place.
- Keep windows & doors to room closed.
- If you have a stove, shut all air vents and flue dampers if safe to do so to reduce the chimney fire oxygen supply.
- Smoke may have built up in the room so move everyone out.



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

- Make sure all your fuel-burning appliances are installed by a qualified installer.
- Get your boiler and any other fuel-burning appliances serviced at least once a year.
- Always use a qualified service agent for your fuel type.
- Get your chimneys and flues inspected and swept.
- Keep flues and chimneys clear at all times. (nesting birds can cause blockage)
- Never block room vents.
- Make sure any building works don't interfere with your existing ventilation of flue arrangements.
- Do not overload a fire and only burn the fuel appliance designed for.
- Fit a Carbon Monoxide detector



- Please see www.firesafetyweek.ie and www.carbonmonoxide.ie for more information or contact Meath Fire Service
- For more useful advice on being prepared for winter weather see www.winterready.ie
- For more fire safety advice see <https://www.housing.gov.ie/community/fire-and-emergency-management/fire-safety/fire-safety-your-home>



MEATH FIRE SERVICE

Abbey Road, Abbeylands South, Navan, Co. Meath

Phone: 046 905 1068

Web: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/public-safety-and-emergency-services/fire-service>

Email: fireofficer@meathcoco.ie



Heating Your Home Safely Meath Fire Service

Meath Fire Service are aware of the increased dangers to householders during the colder months, particularly resulting from the increased use of solid fuels in heating homes.

We hope that you consider the following advice in relation to heating your home and put in place safety tips to protect you and your family.



IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE CALL 999 OR 112 AND ASK FOR THE FIRE SERVICE:

- **STAY CALM**
- **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE OPERATOR**
- **SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY**
- **KNOW YOUR EIRCODE AND GIVE IT TO THE OPERATOR**
- **ONLY FINISH THE CALL WHEN THE OPERATOR TELLS YOU**





SAFETY TIPS



Chimney Fires In The Home



Fireplaces / Stoves

- Never use petrol or liquid fuels to light a fire in your home.
- Only burn materials suitable for fireplace/stove.
- Ensure that there is proper ventilation in the room when using heating appliances.
- Always place spark-guard in front of open fires.
- Keep the area around fire place clear of combustibles. e.g. newspapers
- Avoid hanging a mirror over fireplace as this attracts people to stand too close to the fire.
- Do not dry clothes at an open fire.
- Hot ashes should be disposed of carefully in a tin bucket and not put into plastic bins while still hot.
- Do not burn household waste: Under the Waste Management (Prohibitions of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 it is an offence to burn any type of waste including garden waste. It is an offence to burn household waste by use of stoves or open fires.
- Remember that every home should have working **Smoke & Heat Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.**



Proper Maintenance of Heating Appliances



- Solid fuel fired appliances work better and last longer when they are correctly installed, burning suitable fuel and are properly maintained. Ensure that changes or new installations are carried out by recognised and established heating experts.
- **Design:** Your appliance should be the correct size for the room and have the correct flue/chimney configuration. It must meet manufacturer's requirements and comply with Technical Guidance Document J (Heat Producing Appliances) of the Building Regulations.
- **Air Supply:** All fuels require an adequate supply of air. Check the settings on your heater/stove are correct before using and never seal up air vents/grills, as you may be putting your family at risk.
- **Flue cleaning:** Flueways for solid fuel appliances like stoves should be swept clean to remove any soot or ash. Remember to always let the fire go out well in advance of cleaning.
- **Servicing:** Get your heating system (oil, gas or solid fuel), boilers and flues regularly serviced by a competent heating engineer (HETAS approved where possible).



- When smoke rises up the flue of the chimney, it condenses coating the walls in a highly combustible substance called Creosote.
- When sufficient quantities of soot and Creosote build up there is a risk of fire igniting inside the chimney by sparks or flames from your fire.
- This can cause considerable structural damage to the chimney and cause cracks to form.
- It can also damage the rest of your home.
- Burning soot may also fall onto carpets etc. and set them alight.
- Sparks from Chimney fires can set fire to surrounding properties.

Preventing Chimney Fires Checklist



- Get chimneys cleaned regularly by competent person (CSAI registered where possible).
 - Smokeless fuel open fire or stove – once a year
 - Bituminous house coal open fire – twice a year
 - Wood or turf burning stove or open fire – every three months during use
 - Oil – once a year (if designed for sweeping)
 - Gas – once a year (if designed for sweeping)
- Consider fitting a chimney cowl to restrict debris getting into chimney and obstructing air flow (e.g. birds nest)
- Never burn household rubbish – blocked chimneys can result in fumes entering your home & can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure wood and turf used is dry and well seasoned.
- Do not overload appliance or grate.
- Remember that every home should have working **Smoke & Heat Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.**



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