

**YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO**  
**HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

With fall approaching rapidly, getting your heating system ready for fall and winter weather should be a great concern for you as a homeowner. The heating system is the lifeblood of the home during the colder months of the year, and the cost of heating your home during this time is probably one of your biggest upcoming expenditures. The tips that follow will help you to get your heating system ready while also helping to reduce the cost of keeping your interior toasty warm.

**Routine Maintenance**

Early fall and early spring are the ideal times for you to have your heating system inspected. While you're likely to do basic maintenance tasks yourself, like changing out a furnace filter, an annual inspection of your heating system is important to avoid costly repairs. A certified technician can spot potential problems with your HVAC system before they become major issues, and can get your system ready for the cool weather ahead by making sure that everything is in good working order.

**Filter Maintenance**

Your HVAC air filter is an important part of your heating and cooling system. By replacing the air filter each month – your system will not have to work as hard, which means that it will use less energy. Changing the filter regularly can also help your system to last longer. Most folks can perform this simple task in addition to cleaning the vents and ducts to remove built up dust.

**Use a Programmable Thermostat**

While most homeowners don't have the knowledge to install a programmable thermostat on their own, having your heating and cooling technician make this installation during your annual inspection is a good idea. A programmable thermostat allows you to turn your heat down during the day when you are at work or while you are asleep at night and then back to a higher temperature when you need it. It takes much less energy to warm a cool home than it does to keep the home warm all day. With proper use of your programmable thermostat, you can cut your heating costs by around twenty percent.

**Check Heating Vents**

And finally, make sure that all of the heating vents in the home are opened and that they are not blocked by furniture or other items. This allows for an even distribution of air throughout the home. However, if you have rooms that are not being used, such as a guest bedroom, you can close the vents to those areas in order to cut down on energy costs.

**Safety is No Accident!**

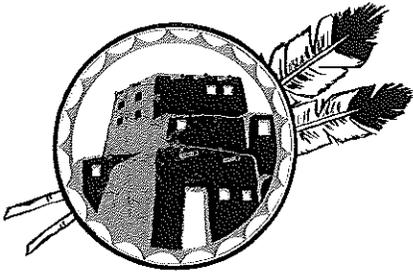
For more information, please visit AMERIND Risk Safety Services' web page at

[www.AMERINDRISK.org](http://www.AMERINDRISK.org) ->> News and Resources ->> SafetyServices

or visit the National Safety Council's Web site at [www.NSC.org](http://www.NSC.org).

Contact the AMERIND Risk Safety Services Team

by telephone at 800.352.3496



**YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO**  
**HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

### **Holiday Safety**

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage in the United States. By following some of the outlines precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

### **Thanksgiving**

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.
- When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- Cook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.
- Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.

### **Preventing Christmas Tree Fires**

- Select fresh trees – Choose a green tree with a sticky trunk and tight needles.
- Care for your tree – Keep it away from heat sources, and keep the tree stand filled with water. Take your tree down after two weeks.
- Dispose of your tree at the recyclers – Never put the tree branches in the fireplace or woodstove.

### **Holiday Lights Safety**

- Maintain your lights – Inspect the lights, wires, sockets for wear and tear.
- Electrical Outlets – Don't overload outlets or stretch lights to reach outlets.
- Periodically check the lights; they should not be warm to the touch.
- Turn the lights off when you're not at home and before going to bed.

### **Safety is No Accident!**

For more information, please visit AMERIND Risk Safety Services' web page at [www.AMERINDRISK.org](http://www.AMERINDRISK.org) ->> News and Resources ->> SafetyServices or visit the National Safety Council's Web site at [www.NSC.org](http://www.NSC.org).

Contact the AMERIND Risk Safety Services Team  
by telephone at 800.352.3496