

7 Fall Fire Prevention Tips

The fall season brings chillier weather and falling leaves—and an increased risk of fires. Take a look at these seven tips, and help prevent fires before they start!

1 Vehicles
Never park your car or truck over a pile of leaves. The heat from the vehicles catalytic converter or exhaust system can ignite the leaves below. The resulting fire could destroy your vehicle.

2 Lawn Mowers
Remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for the winter.

3 HVAC Maintenance
Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected, and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting, and air-conditioning) contractor every year before using it.

4 Lawn Care
Prune back trees and rake up leaves and debris. If you live in an open area with a lot of natural vegetation, consider creating a defensible fire zone around your home by pruning the bottom branches from trees within 20 ft of your home. You can also remove shrubs and trees within that 20 ft for extra fire protection.

5 Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors
Before you turn on your central heating, use your fireplace, wood-burning stove, or gas heater, make sure that you have enough functioning smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, and that they've been tested.

6 Furnaces and Space-heaters
Keep all flammable materials away from your furnace. This includes clothing, paint products, toxic materials, cardboard, and more.
Make sure that space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space.

7 Heating Appliances
Check your heating appliances, such as fireplaces, fireplace dampers, wood-burning stoves, and chimneys for defects, creosote build-up, and appropriate fire protection equipment.

Sources:
<https://www.oafc.on.ca/autumn-fire-safety>