



## *News Release*

Escambia County  
Office of Public Information and Communications  
221 Palafox Place, Suite 410, Pensacola FL 32502

---

February 10, 2012  
News Release# 12-0210-cold weather

### *Cold Weather Safety*

With the extremely cold temperatures forecasted for the weekend, Escambia County urges residents to take safety precautions while trying to stay warm. Actions should be taken to prepare for this and future cold weather events. Remember the "5 Ps" of cold weather preparedness:

- ❖ Protect **P**eople
- ❖ Protect **P**lants
- ❖ Protect **P**ets
- ❖ Protect Exposed **P**ipes
- ❖ Practice Fire Safety

Log onto [www.bereadyescambia.com](http://www.bereadyescambia.com) for tips on the "5 Ps".

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the winter months, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round. Escambia County would like to offer a few safety tips involving heating equipment:

- Properly inspect heating equipment for frayed cords or exposed elements before use.
- Space heaters need space. Keep heaters at least three feet away from all furniture, drapes, clothing and other combustibles.
- Use only heaters designed for use in the home. Never use cooking appliances, such as ovens, or any heaters designed for outdoor usage indoors.
- Only use heaters with safety features such as cut-off switches that turn them off if they accidentally tip over and those units with heater element guards that prevent combustible materials from contacting the heating element.
- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn them off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Keep heaters and their cords along with extension cords away from high traffic areas.
- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside every bedroom. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.
- If you have gas appliances, install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

###

Charles R. "Randy" Oliver, County Administrator  
Cameron J. "Cam" Johnson, Interim Public Information Manager