Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood .
Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass , in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
We have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
Our children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
Our portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off .
Our portable space heaters will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
We have tested our smoke alarms and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they



all sound.)



