

TEST ANSWERS: Fireplace Safety

1. In 29% of home heating fires, the cause is lack of routine maintenance of heating equipment.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: You should have your heating system and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified service technician, as well as ensuring that all outside heating vents are not blocked.

2. To have a wood-burning fireplace, the following should be considered: (Circle all that apply)

a) A non-combustible surface such as a tile floor

b) Adequate ventilation to prevent CO poisoning

c) At least one metre around the fireplace that is clear of anything that might catch fire or overheat

d) All the above

RATIONALE: It is especially important to be sure your wood-burning fireplace is installed on a non-combustible floor with adequate ventilation and at least one metre of clearance surrounding it. Using a fire screen is also suggested to protect the surrounding area from flying embers or sparks.

3. Effective March 1, 2006, it is the law for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every story and outside all sleeping areas.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: Most fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound to alert people in the house. It is the law in Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every story and outside all sleeping areas.

4. All the following are facts about carbon monoxide: (Circle all that apply)

a) Colourless

b) Odourless

c) Can only be identified by a detector (alarm)

d) CO alarm should meet the Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

RATIONALE: Carbon monoxide is a colourless and odourless gas that is poisonous at high levels. It can only be detected by an alarm that meets the Canadian Standards Association. You should be sure to test your detector regularly and replace batteries and the detector itself as recommended by the manufacturer.

5. Only 64% of Ontario households have a working fire extinguisher.

- a) True
- b) False

RATIONALE: While fire extinguishers are not a law in Ontario homes, one should be readily available in the areas where fires are most likely to occur – the kitchen and the garage. Be sure you have the correct class of fire extinguisher and understand how to use it effectively if needed (using the P-A-S-S method of *Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep*).