



# ***Joint Information Center***

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## Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Maintaining Your Insurance Against Disaster**

Supplemental heat and power supplies are contributing factors in seven fires and two injuries related to the recent severe ice storms and power outages in central Nebraska.

The State Fire Marshal reminds you that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors can save your life; **IF THEY ARE WORKING**. The insurance provided by a working smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector is simple. Since properly located and working detectors never sleep, you can rest. Here are a few tips that will help you maintain a working detector:

- Make sure detectors have proper working batteries, or battery backup.
- Make sure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- At least one smoke detector should be outside sleeping areas on each level of the home.
- When sleeping with bedroom doors closed, a smoke detector should be located in the bedroom.
- Know the age of your smoke detector. Detectors older than 10 years of age need to be replaced.

Information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates there were 64 carbon monoxide fatalities nation-wide in 2005, and 34 in just the last 3 months of 2006. 100% of all non-vehicle-related carbon monoxide fatalities were attributed to improper use of generators or supplemental heating during electrical outages.

Your family's lives are at stake. Don't become a statistic.

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