

## Bernalillo County Fire Department Shares Cold Weather Reminders

**Bernalillo County** – Now that the fall weather has brought the first freeze of the season, the Bernalillo County Fire Department warns residents that as the weather gets colder fires increase due to people trying to keep warm.

Here are some cold weather reminders:

- Check that heating appliances are in proper working order.
- Make sure there is no carbon monoxide leakage.
- After reading the instruction manual and checking for the testing approval mark, inspect the heater cord for frays and/or damage. Do not use it if it is damaged.
- Plug the heater directly into the outlet and never use extension cords.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire or is damp or wet, and be sure to use only a flat, level, floor surface.
- Keep space heaters away from high-traffic areas, and never leave them unattended or in rooms with unsupervised children or pets.
- Make sure the circuit where the heater is plugged in can handle the added demand. Always turn off, unplug and safely store the heater when not in use.
- Do not use charcoal or propane indoors.

**“These simple cold weather tips can help to stop a fire from starting in the first place and more importantly, save lives and homes,”** says Bernalillo County Fire Chief Chris Celaya. **“Let’s all follow them and have a safe and warm winter.”**



**Larry Gallegos**  
*Public Information Specialist*  
Communication Services  
One Civic Plaza NW, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Email: [lagallegos@bernco.gov](mailto:lagallegos@bernco.gov)  
O: (505) 468-1273 C: (505) 228-6668

[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)