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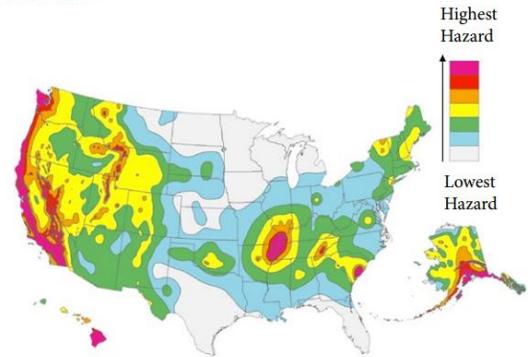
# OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

**CERT will not meet in November and December 2022 due to the holidays! Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2023. See you then!**

## OCTOBER – Great Shakeout – Practice Earthquake Preparedness

Earthquakes are the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of underground rock. They can collapse buildings and cause heavy items to fall, resulting in injuries and property damage. Earthquakes can happen anywhere, but the higher risk areas are California, Alaska, and the Mississippi Valley. Earthquakes happen frequently in Central Idaho and even places like Washington, DC which had one in 2011 when the Washington Monument was cracked.

### Earthquake Hazards in the United States



2014 United States Geological Survey Seismic Hazard Map

## IF AN EARTHQUAKE HAPPENS, PROTECT YOURSELF RIGHT AWAY



**If in a vehicle, pull over and stop.**



**If in bed, stay there.**



**If outdoors, stay outdoors.**



**Do not get in a doorway.**



**Do not run outside.**

Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops. Crawl only if you can reach better cover without going through an area with more debris.

If in bed, stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow.

If inside, stay there until the shaking stops. DO NOT run outside.

If in a vehicle, stop in a clear area that is away from buildings, trees, overpasses, underpasses, or utility wires.

If near slopes, cliffs, or mountains, be alert for falling rocks and landslides.

## HOME HEATING SAFETY TIPS

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 48,530 fires involving heating equipment per year in 2014-2018, accounting for 14% of all reported home fires during this time. These fires resulted in annual losses of 500 civilian deaths, 1,350 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage.

### BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



## Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



### FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

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### USEFUL INFORMATION – Get your free credit reports

Federal law gives you the right to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months. Through December 2023, everyone in the US can get a free credit report each week from all three nationwide credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) at [Annualcreditreport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com). Additionally, everyone in the US can get six free credit reports per year through 2026 by visiting the Equifax website or by calling 1-866-349-5191. To order your free credit reports: visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.AnnualCreditReport.com), call 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail to the address on the form. The form is attached to this month's email and on the CERT website.