



Hi, I am Melissa from NorthlineExpress and today I am here to talk to you about Chimney Fire Prevention. I will cover the facts, fiction, ignition, and prevention of chimney fires.

Chimney Fire Stats



the entire home is lost.

Let's start with the facts about chimney fires. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission during the 3 year period of 2010-2012 each year on average there were 22,700 chimney fires, 20 lives were lost and 93 people suffered injuries. Another shocking statistic is when you hear that during that same time period each year the average amount of overall property damage was over \$111.7 million. Fireplace and chimney fires range in size and severity. They can range from thousands of dollars if a single room is damaged to even more if

A Common Myth



There is one major belief that home owners tend to have that is very dangerous when you consider chimney fires; that masonry chimneys are indestructible. While masonry chimneys have been the standard fire place construction for hundreds of years and typically do seem to last forever they are not indestructible. Masonry chimneys can be damaged by extreme weather, shifts in the earth, and just general deterioration with age.

Unseen Dangers Lurking



inspected, unless you would rather find out the hard way while you are waiting for the firemen to arrive

You may not know it but right now there could be a serious danger lurking in your chimney, creosote buildup. Creosote [buildup](#) is a major factor in chimney fire ignition. It is a crusty tar like deposit in your chimney that is highly combustible. This is why regular chimney [cleaning](#) either by you or by a professional is very important. The National Fire Protection Association also recommends that you have your chimney inspected at least once a year by a certified professional. The only real way to know if you have a problem with your chimney is to have it

and put out your chimney fire.

Tips for Chimney Fire Prevention



In addition to regular cleaning and annual inspection here are some other tips to help prevent a chimney fire.

- Burn only seasoned wood. Your fireplace will burn cleaner with less chances of creosote buildup that can lead to a fire.

- Be sure not to over load your firebox. You should only stack logs to about half of the height of your fire box and flames should never be able to reach up into the chimney.

- Remember, your fireplace is not an incinerator. Do not burn things like wrapping paper or boxes. Materials like these only will contribute to the buildup in your chimney.

- Keep an inch of ash in the bottom of your firebox. This will allow hot coals to nestle down into the ash and cool off at the end of the burn.

- Build smaller fires using hotter burning wood if possible like hickory or ash. Not only will this help you save on what you burn it also burns more completely which decreases risk of creosote buildup in chimneys.

In the Case of a Chimney Fire



And finally even though we're talking about preventing chimney fires, if you burn in your fireplace or wood stove you should be keeping 2-3 Chimfex Fire Suppressants on hand. Studies show that the [Chimfex](#) will suppress a fire in an average of 22 seconds. They work similar to a flare, just light it and toss it in to the fire. It will use the oxygen, extinguishing the fire. It's better safe than sorry should you ever experience a chimney fire. Having Chimfex around could save you from a total loss of your home situation.

I hope you have found this information helpful, but if you still have questions on preventing chimney fires or about Chimfex give our Customer Service Department a call at 866-667-8454. Here at NorthlineExpress, home of the "Buy and Try" satisfaction guarantee, we are always happy to help.