

## IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Contact your oil company, fire department, or regional Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) office for assistance.



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For more details on homeowners insurance from Safety Insurance, contact your agent today.

For information about your policy or bill visit [www.SafetyInsurance.com](http://www.SafetyInsurance.com)

Information gathered using:  
[disastersafety.org](http://disastersafety.org),  
[energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov),  
and material prepared by  
the Massachusetts Department  
of Environmental Protection

# OIL HEAT SAFETY

INVESTING A SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY NOW WILL SAVE YOU IN THE LONG RUN. THE CLEANUP AFTER OIL SPILLS OR LEAKS IS EXPENSIVE. THE EXPERIENCE MAY BE HIGHLY DISRUPTIVE TO YOUR FAMILY AND MAYBE EVEN YOUR NEIGHBORS.

YOUR SAFETY IS  
OUR TOP PRIORITY



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## OIL HEAT SAFETY

**Home heating safety is important for all homeowners. Maintenance and understanding is integral to the protection of your home and family.**

In Massachusetts, home heating oil spills and leaks have become an all too common problem. The culprit in most cases is the delivery or supply line that carries home heating oil from the storage tank to the furnace. Oil-fired boilers and furnaces are especially popular in areas of the country with limited access to natural gas, such as the Northeast.

Depending on the age of your heater, you may consider the following options to increase safety and efficiency:

### **Vent Dampers**

The most common retrofit is the addition of a vent (or flue) damper. A vent damper prevents chimney losses by closing off a boiler's vent when the boiler is not firing. Steam boilers and big boilers benefit from vent dampers more than hot water or smaller boilers.

### **Barometric Flue Damper**

During your annual service checkup, have a draft test. If too much heat is going up the chimney, install a barometric flue damper. The cost is minimal and can save up to 5% of your fuel cost.

### **Modulating Aquastats Controller and Time-Delay Relay:**

Retrofits for hot water boilers can save fuel costs. The

modulating aquastat, also called an outdoor reset, controls and adjusts the temperature of the hot water. The time-delay relay causes the boiler to circulate hot water through the system without turning on the boiler.

### **Fuel Supply Lines with Non-Metallic Sleeve and Safety Valve**

A protective sleeve protects the delivery line from corrosion and physical damage. Since older delivery lines are neither visible nor encased, leaks can continue to go undetected.

## MAINTENANCE & PREVENTION

- Have annual maintenance for both your heating furnace and oil tank to prevent future problems
- Install an automatic shutoff valve
- Replace the fuel supply line with one encased in a non-metallic protective sleeve
- Keep the area around the heating system clear of debris and flammable materials
- Install smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors in your home and change the batteries (if applicable) each year

**Review your homeowners policy with your insurance agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage in the event of an oil heat related loss.**