



October 2014 Newsletter

Three Installation Issues of a Home's Heating System That Leads to Fires

The vast majority of furnaces and boilers installed in North America operate without issue for their lifetime. This includes unit that have been installed incorrectly against code. However, there are instances where the stars align and a fire results from an installation error of the heating unit. Here are some of the common errors that result in fires.

- 1. The unit or its venting is installed too close to combustibles.** This occurs with less efficient units that use sheet metal venting. This also comes into play where wood framing or insulation material is installed after the unit or it's vent are in place.
- 2. Disabled limit switches.** This is where the unit's high limit switch has been jumpered out. Reasons for the switch being jumpered include equipment added to the system that restricts airflow or re-circulates air. Examples include an air conditioning evaporator coil above the furnace or a bypass style humidifier. This also can occur where a unit has been oversized for the home and cycles on the limit, causing the limit to fail closed. These issues may go unnoticed for years after the installation, but shows up when the blower fails.
- 3. Improper location of controls or sensors.** One example of this involves boilers that are located above the piping to the radiators and the system lacks a low water cut off safety. If the temperature controls or sensors are not located near the boiler and a leak occurs, the boiler will continue to fire with nothing shutting it off.

October is Fire Prevention Month!

In honor of Fire Prevention Month, H&A would like to remind everyone to test their fire alarms. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. For more information from NFPA, click [here](#).

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