

Does Your Church Have a Boiler?



Yes, it's that time of year!

Time to prepare your boiler for winter and ensure it will heat your church all winter long. Assuring that a boiler is well maintained, properly started and operating efficiently is necessary to ensure the longevity of your boiler, protect your building and the safety of your congregation.

Boilers are commonly used for heating by circulating hot water or steam to heat your church. In both steam heating systems and hot water systems, a boiler heats water with either fuel oil, natural gas, or electricity. The steam or hot water runs through the system to heat the radiators and then returns to the boiler to be heated again. It's recommended that you have your boiler system checked at least once a year by a licensed professional. A qualified technician will make any adjustments or repairs that are necessary to ensure your boiler is operating efficiently and safely; check all wires, connections, valves, and venting; and help you ensure the boiler is ready to start.

After the technician has completed his/her work, there are several items you can do throughout the winter to help maintain the boiler and protect your church.

- Make sure that electrical or natural gas service is not interrupted. For oil fired boilers, make sure you have enough supply. Your boiler requires a regular supply of oil or natural gas, and electricity. For oil burning units, implement a system in place to monitor the fuel oil supply.
- Check the water level in the boiler. Operating the boiler without a sufficient amount of water ("low water") is one of leading causes of failures. If the water level is below the manufacturer's suggested level the boiler may shut down.
- Check for any plumbing leaks in and around the boiler that need to be repaired.
- Clean and clear the boiler room on a regular basis. Be sure to remove any flammable or unnecessary items. Boiler rooms should not be used for the storage of non boiler items.

- Maintain copies of routine boiler inspections that come to your office. Review the inspection document for any items that need to be addressed.
- Test all fire alarms in the boiler room and replace batteries on a routine basis.
- Inspect all fire extinguishers in the boiler room and have them serviced.
- Do not attempt to repair/service your boiler on your own. It is best to have a licensed professional inspect and repair your boiler.

For more information, visit www.InsuranceBoard.org where we have a Boiler Start-up Checklist and Inspection Log for you to download under the Safety Resources tab of the Property section.

If you participate in the Insurance Board program and notice your boiler certificate is expired, and you are in need of a new inspection, please contact the Boiler Inspection Hot Line at 800-333-4677. Have your Insurance Board policy number available.