

# BOROUGH OF HAMBURG

Berks County, Pennsylvania



Fall 2025

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Borough of Hamburg is committed to fostering a safe, welcoming, and vibrant community that honors its historic heritage while promoting growth and opportunity for all residents. We strive to provide high-quality public services, support local businesses, maintain strong infrastructure, and preserve the natural beauty of our surroundings. Through collaboration, transparency, and responsible stewardship, we work to enhance the quality of life for today and for future generations.



## Official Newsletter

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Hamburg Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community.

It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



# THE BOROUGH OF HAMBURG



Hamburg Municipal Center, 1st Floor

61 North 3rd Street, Hamburg, PA 19526

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (excluding holidays)

Phone: (610) 562-7821

## Borough Council

An elected council governs boroughs. The term for office of a borough council member is four years. The Borough Code establishes a pattern of staggered elections so that roughly half the council is up for election at each municipal election year. Council determines municipal policy, enacts laws, approves budgets, establishes tax rates, and appoints Borough Officials. The position of council person entails a great deal of responsibility and concern for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

The mayor, who is also elected to serve a 4-year term, oversees the Police Department and oversees its operations. The mayor is the elected official who takes charge during the time of an emergency. Although the Mayor does not vote on legislative matters, they can vote in the event of a tie, veto an ordinance passed by council and attend and participate in all meetings.

### Mayor

George Holmes

### Council Members

Doug Williams, Council President

Michael Oswald, Council Vice President

Loralee LaVentura

Steve Levan

Michael Adams

Darin Troutman

James Troutman

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

*By Keith Brobst, Emergency Management Coordinator*

### What is Emergency Management?

When you hear the term Emergency Management, you may picture someone directing things during a catastrophe or someone on the phone trying to get supplies. While these are duties of an Emergency Management Coordinator, they are far from the only duties and far from the norm.

Emergency Management starts long before the emergency exists. There has been planning, along with municipal officials, to deal with problems before they crop up. There have been emergency plans developed to deal with hazards particular to jurisdiction. Here in North Berks County, our biggest concerns are flooding and winter weather.

With the presence of the interstate, winter weather is always a concern. What do we do if the highway is shut down or people get stranded on the highway? There is a plan for that. What about a chemical spill on the highway? There is a plan for that. The best way to deal with an emergency is to be prepared.

These things are all important, but the most important part of emergency management is recovery. A state or federal disaster declaration brings with it help for residents and businesses in the form of low interest loans or grants to help restore properties or, if the damage is bad enough, to rebuild. Your Emergency Management Coordinator's job is to document the damage and work with the county Department of Emergency Services and local officials to secure the assistance residents and businesses need.

If you have emergency-related damage and are not contacted by EMA personnel, contact your local government officials and tell them you need help. Your local emergency management officials are happy to help.

# HAMBURG AMBULANCE



This year marks 75 years in business!

Hamburg EMS is proud to continue serving the community and looks forward to the next 75 years of helping others, building relationships, and hosting outreach events. We provide both Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support services.

Our staff must follow state guidelines and participate in ongoing training. Our ambulances are certified and equipped with all necessary supplies and equipment as mandated by the state.

With a highly trained staff, passionate about providing outstanding care, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve this region and the return support of the community. Subscriptions and donations help us maintain proper supplies and ambulance care.

As first responders, we can be called upon to help friends or strangers at what could be their most vulnerable or scary moment. We assess, treat, and transport in the same manner that we hope others will do for us, with efficiency, kindness, and compassion.

If you are interested in joining our incredible team, please reach out to us at [LHerring@hamburgems.com](mailto:LHerring@hamburgems.com)

## PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS WITH A CREDIT CARD!

Just a reminder that a convenient way for our residents and businesses to pay utility bills is by credit card. You can use your credit card to make payments quickly, easily, and securely.

Whether you prefer paying online, or in person at the office, this option gives you more flexibility to manage your account. Paying by credit card can also help you avoid late fees by ensuring payments are processed right away.

Please note that there is a small processing fee for all credit card transactions. We hope this added convenience makes paying your utility bill easier than ever!

## UNDERSTANDING THE ROLES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is made up of five Borough employees: Joseph Stoudt, Doug Woll, James Mickuki, Jodie Binner and Alex Klonis and they play a vital role in keeping our community running smoothly and safely each day. While their work often goes unnoticed, the impact of their efforts touches every resident in countless ways.

Public Works is responsible for maintaining and improving our town's infrastructure. This includes the upkeep of roads, bridges, sidewalks, and public facilities, as well as snow removal, storm cleanup, and street paving projects.

In addition, the department oversees our parks, trails, and recreational spaces, making sure these areas remain clean, safe, and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike. Public Works crews also oversee stormwater management, helping to keep our environment healthy.

Most importantly, the Public Works team is always ready to respond to emergencies, whether it is clearing fallen trees after a storm, salting icy roads in the winter, or repairing a sewer grate. Their work directly supports public health, safety, and quality of life in our community.

Next time you see a Public Works employee out in the community, give them a wave or a thank you. Their dedication helps make our town a wonderful place to live, work, and play.



# FROM THE HAMBURG POLICE

The Police Department is focusing on safety and service initiatives involving abandoned vehicles on roadways as well as handling general traffic complaints as they arise. Officers frequently conduct traffic surveys to focus enforcement efforts to attempt to keep Hamburg roadways safe .

We ask residents not to blow grass clippings and other yard waste out into the roads and streets.

This creates a dangerous situation and damages the storm water system, as the debris blocks storm drains.

## “Did you know...”

- Hamburg Borough participates in a Code Red program that notifies registered recipients of snow emergencies, boil water alerts and other matters that may affect your daily life. Registration is free.
- Hamburg Borough posts information regularly on Facebook, Next door and other social media platforms of current events that may impact residents.
- Hamburg Borough posts on news media when snow emergencies occur giving residents plenty of notice.
- Hamburg Police officers make public address announcements hours before the snow emergencies to give residents ample time to move vehicles.
- Finally, if a car is in the snow emergency route the vehicle will be towed to a tow service provider in town .
- Please help us serve you.

## Other news:

We are proud to announce that the Hamburg School District and Hamburg Borough have entered into an agreement to provide a school resource officer to serve our school community.

We would like to welcome and congratulate the following officers:

- Officer Ashley Borman-Parker and Officer Phoenix Ritchie to our Police Department.
- We commend Kevin D. Mickle and Ryan D. Brobst on their promotion to Corporal.

Our focus is serving our Hamburg community and making Hamburg a safe place to live and work.

We are proud of our community involvement and continue to foster relationships with our residents and community groups. We ask for your continued support and ask you to report suspicious incidents when they occur. Our proactive approach to crime prevention is always successful when residents participate in reporting crime and suspicions activity to our officers. I encourage the use of 9-1-1 to report suspicious matters.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Kuklinski

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Heidi B. Masano and Michael J. Gombar, Jr. – Proud to serve as Borough of Hamburg Solicitor

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# HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

35 N. Third Street, Hamburg, PA 19526 • 610-562-2843

Contact Us and Follow Us on Social Media

Website: [Hamburgpubliclibrary.org](http://Hamburgpubliclibrary.org)

Facebook: @HamburgLibrary

Instagram: @HamburgPublicLibrary

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-5

Tuesday: 10-8

Thursday: 1-8

Saturday: 9-4



The Hamburg Public Library has been continuously serving the community since 1904. We offer:

- A large collection of books for children and adults
- DVDs, Music CDs, Audiobooks, Magazines, and Newspapers
- Thousands of eBooks and Audiobooks
- Free access to materials from all Berks County Libraries and RACC
- Free passes to local Reading Public Museum, Hands-On House, and Berks History Center
- Free access to computers and Wi-Fi
- Free access to activity kits
- Free fun and educational programming for adults and children

*Stop by the library for your free library card today!*

## Our Next Chapter

After 120 years of serving the community, the Hamburg Public Library is expanding to better serve you. We are adding 2,650 square feet, including a finished second floor. New features will include an accessible entrance, comfortable seating, spaces for teens and children, meeting rooms, and more.

Construction is well underway, foundation work is complete, block walls are rising, and framing has already started. We are excited to share that the new addition is on track to open in early 2026. While we grow, we remain committed to preserving the history that makes our library special. Every brick and beam are an investment in Hamburg's future; a place where learning, connection, and community can thrive.

Join us in shaping the future of the Hamburg Public Library. Learn more and get involved at [hamburgsnextchapter.org](http://hamburgsnextchapter.org).



## CHAPTERS & CHANCES BASKET RAFFLE

Join us for the Hamburg Public Library's annual Chapters & Chances Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, and 50/50! Stop by First UCC (76 S. 3rd St., Hamburg) on Friday, November 7 (4–8 PM) and Saturday, November 8 (9 AM–4 PM) to browse the baskets and enjoy some treats. The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, November 8 at 4 PM.

### ADULT PROGRAMMING

#### COFFEE AND CRIME BOOK CLUB

*4th Monday of each month, 10 AM*

Join us for a discussion of a crime book and local coffee. Ask at the circulation desk about the month's book!

#### CRAFTER HOUR

*1st Thursday of each month, 6 PM*

*Registration Required*

Crafter Hour is a free craft time for adults. We will provide all the materials and tools; all you need to do is bring your creativity (and sign up in advance!)

#### SIT AND STITCH

*4th Thursday of each month, 6 PM*

Crafting connections, one thread at a time. Whatever your craft (knit, crochet, embroidery, latch hook...), we invite you to bring your works-in-progress to "Sit and Stitch." Newbies or experienced crafters are welcome!

#### NOVEL BREWS AT HAZEL'S CAFE

*3rd Wednesday of each month, 6 PM*

Looking for great books and even better conversations? Join our newest book club held at Hazel's Cafe, 12 South 4th St., Hamburg.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

#### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

*New Day! 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6 PM*

*All ages welcome.*

All ages welcome.

Join us for a fun, informal game night here at the library! No preregistration required.

#### BUILDER'S CLUB

*4th Saturday of each month, 11 AM*

*4th Wednesday of each month, 2 PM*

Come and bring your building skills: we will have Legos and more!

#### STORYTIME

*Wednesdays at 11AM*

Storytime includes fun stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Please check our schedule at the library or online.

#### Did you know?

While the Hamburg Public Library receives support from state and local government, we also rely on the help and support of community members to continue to provide exciting programs such as these, as well as essential library services. The Hamburg Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information on supporting your local library, please visit: [tinyurl.com/supporthpl](http://tinyurl.com/supporthpl)

## HAMBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hamburg Area Historical Society is moving forward with their construction plans. Excavation is being carried out to comply with stormwater runoff regulations, and grass seed along with matting will be placed around the building.

The current museum on State Street is being prepared for the upcoming sale of the building. Items are being packed up and marked according to where they will be placed in the new museum. If an interested buyer is found, the property must first be offered to the Borough of Hamburg, as they have the first right of refusal. The borough will have 30 days to decide if they want to purchase it at the asking price.

We are incredibly grateful for all the donations that have already been received, but we still have a long way to go. We have passed the halfway mark of our final goal. Our monthly meetings are accessible to the public. They are held the first Thursday of the month in the large group instruction room of the Hamburg Area High School.

#### Programs:

- September 4 – Hallie Vaughn presents "The Code Girls from WWII."
- October 2 – Margi Wright, The Bootleg Knitter presents "Sheep to shawl and dying wool."
- November 6 – Dave Smoot presents "Civil War Medicine."

Plans to celebrate the opening of the new museum are a work in progress. Stay tuned; you are all invited.



# HAMBURG'S MAIN STREET PROGRAM:

## How Our Town Foundation is Shaping the Future of Hamburg

Hamburg is entering a new chapter of growth and revitalization thanks to the efforts of Our Town Foundation (OTF). In May, Our Town Foundation officially became designated as a Main Street Program by PA Department of Community and Economic Development, the first new designation in the state since the initiative relaunched. This achievement is more than a title; it is a recognition of OTF's proven track record and a powerful tool for shaping Hamburg's future.

With its Main Street designation, OTF is leading a five-year plan designed to make downtown Hamburg stronger, more vibrant, and more connected. At the core of that plan is a focus on attracting people into town. OTF is constructing a new outdoor event venue which will soon serve as a hub for regular events and community gatherings to make Hamburg a destination for both residents and visitors and increase foot traffic in town.

Revitalization is another key priority. OTF is implementing a Facade Improvement Program, giving downtown property and business owners the chance to upgrade the appearance of their street-facing storefronts. With funding support from Pennsylvania's Main Street Matters program through DCED, up to 50% of project costs can be covered. These improvements help beautify downtown, boost curb appeal, and create a stronger first impression for visitors.

Equally important is the support OTF provides to businesses. Business owners, leaders, and community members are invited to networking mixers which help to connect, share ideas, and build partnerships. Educational business workshops are also provided to educate, inform, and give practical tools for success, covering everything from marketing to special opportunities. When new businesses open their doors, OTF hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, offering valuable publicity and celebrating each new addition to the downtown community. The Foundation also works with regional partners, like the PA Americana Region and Schuylkill River Greenways, to bring new opportunities for Hamburg businesses to gain broader exposure.

OTF makes sure Hamburg has a strong digital presence too. The Foundation manages the official [HamburgPA.org](http://HamburgPA.org) website, featuring business directory and event listings, and actively promotes the town through social media. These platforms expand Hamburg's reach far beyond Main Street and keep the community engaged and informed.

For businesses who want to play a bigger role, OTF membership offers additional benefits while helping sustain the very programs that are making a difference. Memberships are available for businesses and residents and members serve as true partners in ensuring Hamburg thrives.

The Main Street designation gives Hamburg recognition and resources, but it is OTF's leadership, creativity, and dedication that turn plans into action. From business support to community events, from facade improvements to ribbon cuttings, Our Town Foundation is ensuring downtown Hamburg is not just preserved but revitalized for the future.

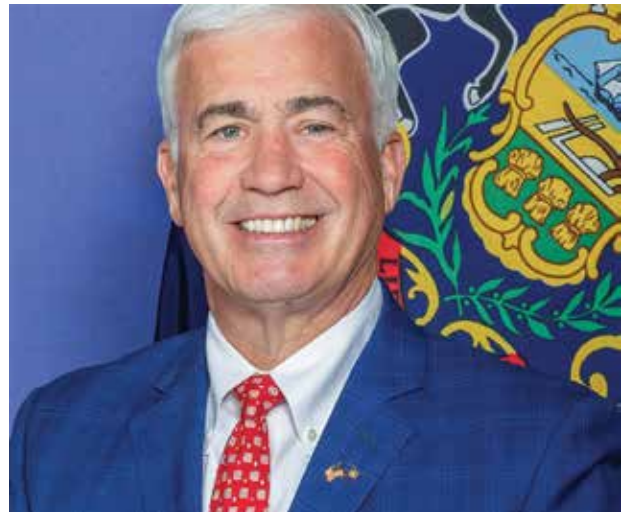
## STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE BARTON

What my District Office can do for you...

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (senior reduced car registration, lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration, vanity plates and handicapped placards.
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors.
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications.
- Unclaimed property.
- Voter registration, absentee ballot and mail-in applications.
- Educator resources.
- Copies of legislation.
- Assistance with state licenses.
- Obtaining Birth and Death Certificates.
- Coordinate with state agencies to resolve state-related matters.

### HAMBURG OFFICE

61 N. Third St., Hamburg, PA 19526  
484-660-3721  
Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
[www.RepBarton.com](http://www.RepBarton.com)



# HAMBURG FIRE CO. NEWS

Change your clock. Check your alarm.



**CO and Smoke alarms should be checked often and the batteries changed every 6 months.**

## Annual Fund drive

The Union Fire Company No 1 of Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania would like to thank you for your continued support over the years and years to come. Over the past few years, we focused on replacing our 1986 Hahn/Salisbury Rescue. This equipment and all specialized firefighting equipment is extremely expensive, so upgrades like this take years of planning. Through your continued support we have ordered a 2027 Spartan ERV Rescue for delivery in the fall of 2027. The total cost of the new rescue is \$1,400,000.00. Donations from residents and businesses like you are important to us from year to year as operational costs continue to rise while we continue to provide the highest level of service our community deserves. Any amount that you can donate is appreciated by our firefighters and the community all together.

## BASIC RESPONSE PROCEDURE DURING A FIRE INCIDENT

### Stay Calm and Act Quickly

Panic can hinder your ability to make sound decisions. Take a deep breath and focus on evacuating safely.

### Activate the Fire Alarm

If you discover a fire, trigger the nearest fire alarm to alert others in the building.

### Alert Others

Shout "Fire!" to warn those nearby and ensure they are evacuating as well.

### Use the Stairs, Not Elevators

Elevators can become inoperative or open onto dangerous areas during a fire. Always use stairways to exit.

### Test Doors Before Opening

Before opening any door, use the back of your hand to feel its surface. If it's hot, do not open it; there may be fire on the other side.

### Stay Low Under Smoke

Smoke rises, so crouch or crawl to avoid inhaling toxic fumes as you make your way to an exit.

### Close Doors Behind You

As you evacuate, close doors to rooms you pass through to help contain the fire and slow its spread.

### Use a Fire Extinguisher for Small Fires

If the fire is small and you are trained, use a fire extinguisher. Remember the PASS technique: Pull the pin, Aim at the base, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep side to side.

### Stop, Drop, and Roll

If your clothing catches fire, stop immediately, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over to smother the flames.

### Do Not Re-enter the Building

Once you've evacuated, do not go back inside for any reason. Wait for emergency personnel to declare it safe.



## Community Fire & Arson Awareness Presented by PSP Fire Marshal Office Coming in October!



**Field House is now available to rent. For information email: [hamburgfieldhouse@gmail.com](mailto:hamburgfieldhouse@gmail.com)**

This presentation will address the most common causes for fires in household situations based on Local PSP FM experience and will address resulting injuries. It is designed to give awareness and transparency to the community in an effort to help prevent unintended fires based on the experience and response of my office conducting investigations within the community.

**WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DATE, TIME AND HOW TO REGISTER!**

**DONATE TO YOUR 100% VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SINCE 1832**



[www.hamburgfireco.com](http://www.hamburgfireco.com)



610-562-9195



127 S 4th St. Hamburg, PA 19526

# HAMBURG BOROUGH COLLECTION CALENDAR

## Trash and Recycling Collection

Collection will be weekly services for both trash and recycling. Residents are reminded that there is a four trash (4) bag limit per household (trash only). Maximum trash collection weight - Seventy five (75) pounds. Container size not to exceed 32 gallons. Trash and recycling are not to be placed out for collection earlier than 6:00 p.m. the evening before scheduled collection date.

## Single-Stream Recycling Collection

Hamburg Borough uses "single-stream" recycling program which makes it easier than ever to recycle. Your household recycling will all go in the same container. **No need to separate your papers, metals, cardboard, glass and plastics, etc.** J.P. Mascaro & Sons will pick up recyclables every week on Tuesday with a truck that resembles a trash truck.

## What Can be placed out as Recyclables?

Paper and Cardboard

(no books, no contaminated pizza boxes)

Wax Cartons: Milk, juice, soup, flavored drinks and cartons can be recycled.

Aluminum

Glass (no window glass, mirrors, light bulbs)

Plastics #1- #7 (no toys, styrofoam, ceramics)

## Yard Waste Collection

Collection in open containers or compostable bags.

**No plastic bags! Wednesdays in 2025**

2025 (3/5 - 11/26)

## Bulk Item Collection

One (1) bulk item will be collected once a month on the second Tuesday of each month. The specific collection day is indicated on the calendar below. Accepted items include sofas, water heaters, and stoves. However, we cannot collect refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or dehumidifiers due to the special handling required for items containing CFCs (Freon). Carpets must be cut into three-foot strips, rolled, and tied into a maximum of ten rolls. Additionally, mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic before disposal, and each one counts as a separate item. For twigs and branches, please cut them into three-foot lengths and bundle them into a maximum of ten bundles per pickup. Alternatively, you may place out ten logs or one (1) stump.

## E-Waste Alert! Disposal Ban:

Solid waste disposal facilities in Pennsylvania do not accept devices such as TVs and computer devices including hard drives, monitors, keyboards, mice and printers or their components.

## Holiday Schedule:

If collection falls on or before a holiday collection there will be a one (1) day delay in service.

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	H	27	28	29	30	31

June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	H	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	H	28	29
30						

December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	H	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Trash and Recycling collected every week on Tuesday.
- Bulk Item Collection (2nd Tuesday)
- Yard Waste Collection: Wednesday 2025 (3/5 - 11/26)

■ Holiday



**J. P. Mascaro & Sons**

*If it's service, it's us!*

10  
Tips

# Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. *(A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)*
- Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote build-up. *(Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)*
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. *(The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)*
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** *(not an extension cord)* and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. *(Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn-off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)*
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(You need a smoke alarm on every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)*
- We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. *(Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)*



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

**Hamburg Borough**  
61 North 3rd Street,  
Hamburg, PA 19526

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Fall 2025



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