

# Comments and Replies on Stove Safety Evaluation

as of 28.1.2006

## C: Comment

## R: Reply

**C-1:** The summarized procedures seem hard to understand at points? Do you have anything simpler?

**R-1:** The summarized procedures were created for those who have done the procedure before and needed a reference just to keep them on track and collect data. It is easier to run the tests if you have read Chapter 5. Safety Guidelines, which includes pictures and full explanations. Another summary will be made for those people who want diagrams and longer explanations of procedures.

**C-2:** How did you come up with the reasoning for these tests?

**R-2:** The reasoning for developing these tests and their metrics can be found in my thesis in Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, and the last section of Chapter 2.

**C-3:** If the stove is used in different settings (e.g. indoors and outdoors), in which location should I conduct the rating?

**R-3:** It is best to test the stove in the setting where it is most unsafe. This could be placing the stove close to a wall where the heat may set the house on fire, setting the stove on the ground instead of on a bench or table giving children greater risk to touch it, or outside where the chimney is not attached to a roof and can cause the stove to tip easier. Only test the stove in the location(s) it is intended to be used. Try the worst possible scenario first. It is acceptable to give a stove different safety ratings based on location as well, simply record two final numbers.

**C-4:** Do the methods provide for increased safety rating if a user's manual is provided?

**R-4:** Currently the safety rating does not include added benefit for those stoves with manuals. However, the next version will as this is an important point.

**C-5:** The infra-red thermocouple is too expensive (\$200), is there anything else I can use?

**R-5:** Yes, the IR thermocouple is simply the easiest to use. You can use a regular thermocouple that you touch to the stove and even thermal-paint that changes color with temperature. However, the latter will not have great accuracy or precision.

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**C-6:** If a stove is horrible in one area, why not just simply declare it unsafe?

**R-6:** Calling a stove either safe or unsafe was not done since the goal is to promote awareness and consideration for all aspects of safety, not just the major ones. The focus here is on each of the ten individual safety ratings so that the designer-manufacturer can improve the stove on each one as he/she sees fit. Greater dangerous with some hazards have been taken into account though when calculating the overall safety rating. Each individual rating is weighted based on the risk and severity of injury.

**C-7:** In Stove Safety Comparisons, I don't recognize my stove by that name.

**R-7:** I could not acquire the names of all the stoves in the study as they either didn't have a name or it was unavailable when I wrote the study. If you could send me a picture of your stove and its proper name I will make the changes.