



Holiday Safety Tips

Department of Fire Prevention & Electrical Safety
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General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Test all smoke alarms.
- Make an emergency plan and make sure all family members and visitors know how to call the fire department.

Candles

- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.
- Use sturdy, safe candleholders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.

Kitchen

- Keep pot handles and electrical appliance cords out of the reach of children.
- Have a lid and oven mitt available and handy for use on any pan fires.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away while cooking.
- Never leave cooking food unattended.

Trimnings

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.
- In homes with small children, take special care to:
 - Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.
 - Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.
 - Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food.

Decorations

- Use decorations marked for "outdoor use."
- Throw away all decorations with broken or cracked sockets, frayed wires or cracked lights.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Don't run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters.
- Never run extension cords across lawns, driveways or traffic areas.
- Unplug all decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.

Christmas Trees

- Any artificial tree should be fire resistant. Look for a statement specifying this protection.
- If buying a live Christmas tree, buy only a fresh tree. To check for freshness, remember:
 - A fresh tree is green.
 - Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
 - When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
 - The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
 - When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.
 - Place tree away from fireplaces and other sources of heat.
 - Cut off two inches of the trunk before placing the tree in a sturdy stand.
 - Check water level in the stand daily.
 - Keep the tree out of the way of traffic and properly secure the tree.
 - Discard your tree shortly after Christmas.
 - Do not burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood burning stove. Check with your city or town officials for any recycling or tree pickup efforts.

Websites for further information

www.holidaysafety.org
www.cpsc.gov
www.nfpa.org
www.usfa.dhs.gov
www.firesafety.gov