

Holiday Fire Safety Tips



- **Water fresh trees daily**

It's time to trim that Christmas tree! If you're using a real tree, buy a fresh tree and keep the base of the trunk in water at all times. Keep your tree away from the fireplace, heaters, or candles. Be sure the base is steady so the tree does not fall.

- **Check all sets of lights before decorating**

Before you put lights on the tree or around the front window check the cords closely. Discard any sets that are frayed or damaged. Do not string together more strands than the package recommends.

- **Use extension cords wisely**

People often use extension cords for that extra set of lights or the dancing Santa in the corner. Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection. Make sure cords never go under rugs as this can cause damage to the cord and cause a fire.

- **Make sure everyone knows how to get out safely if a fire occurs**

Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and make sure someone helps young children, older adults or anyone else that may need assistance to evacuate. Once outside, stay outside and call 911 from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

- **When you go out, blow out!**

Candles can set the perfect mood for a holiday celebration, but remember to always blow out candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Keep lit candles safely away from children and pets and anything that can burn, such as curtains, upholstery, or holiday decorations. Consider electric candles for a safe alternative.

- **Give space heaters space**

If you are using space heaters to help take the chill off, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn such as curtains, upholstery, or holiday decorations.

- **Keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children**

People often keep matches and lighters handy to light holiday candles. But matches and lighters can be deadly in the hands of children. If you smoke, have only one lighter or book of matches and keep them with you at all times.

- **Make sure you have working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms**

Replace smoke alarms if they are over 10 years old. You need working smoke alarms on every story of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test your alarms to make sure they will alert you and your family if a fire occurs. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas produce by gas appliances, furnaces, unvented kerosene heaters, and fireplaces with a closed damper or blocked flue. It can kill you quickly! Replace carbon monoxide alarms every five years. Installing carbon monoxide alarms in your home will alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.