



SEMPER SAFE



“Holiday Safety Tips”

When most people think about the holidays, family festivities and good cheer likely come to mind. What few people consider is that the holidays also present an increased risk of home fires and other mishaps. Home fires during the holiday season often involve the Christmas trees, and decorations. By taking some preventative steps and following some of these simple tips, most home fires can be prevented during the holidays and beyond.

Christmas Trees:

- U.S. fire departments annually respond to an average of 250 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Nearly half of them are caused by electrical problems, and one in four resulted from a heat source that was too close to the tree.
- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant. If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.
- Plan where your tree will be positioned. Do not place the tree in front of or near your exit. Try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances.
- Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the house or going to bed.
- After Christmas, dispose of the tree properly. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.

Other Safety Tips:

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Never use staples or nails to hang light strings.
- Check your strands of lights to determine the maximum number of strands that may be connected.
- Always unplug or switch off all holiday lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Take holiday lights down after the holidays. Holiday lights are for temporary, seasonal use up to 90 days.
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- **TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS!!**
- When entertaining guests, inform them of your home fire escape plan.

Visit www.nfpa.org/holiday for more information and safety tips.



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**Think about Safety
this Holiday Season!!**



**It only takes a
Second,**