



READY TO RESPOND

NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

DECEMBER 2019

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

Holiday Safety Month

Find important information about holiday safety

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Holiday Safety Month

When the weather chills and the snow begins to fall, winter ushers in the holiday season. From gift exchanges to holiday parties, family get-togethers to snowy activities, there are plenty of fun festivities to look forward to this holiday season.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to remind everyone to take a pause and think about safety this holiday season. During the hustle and bustle of the holidays we often times forget to do things safely in order to get tasks done quickly. This can lead to injuries and property loss. Follow the safety tips in this newsletter to ensure you and your loved ones have a happy and safe holiday season.

(<https://www.edgarsnyder.com/seasonal/winter-holiday-safety/holiday-safety-tips.html>)



Holiday Safety Tips

- Use non-flammable decorations
- Check holiday lights annually for excessive wear
- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Keep Christmas trees away from heat sources and exits
- Water Christmas trees daily
- Use LED light candles



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



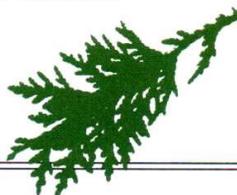
PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ **One-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ **Two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs

1



Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets

2



Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources

3



Make sure your tree has a stable platform

4



Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant

5



If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered

6



Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire

7



Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use

8



When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places

9



Designate a sober driver

10



When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat

11



Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F

12



Happy Holidays



nsc.org

Ride Out

