

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

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



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 are listed by a qualified 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 quarter** of home Christmas tree fires are 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.

IN THE RIGHT *light*

DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



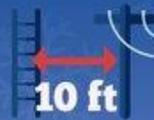
Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**



Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by **ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)**



Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords **for damage before using**



Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **10 feet from power lines**



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**



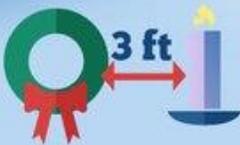
Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**



Never connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together



Water your Christmas tree **daily**



Keep all decorations at least **3 feet away from heating equipment or an open flame**



Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as **UL** (Underwriters Laboratory), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT WWW.ESFI.ORG



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www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg

PREVENTION:

It's the gift that keeps on giving

Between 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of **860 home structure fires** that began with **holiday decorations** and an additional 210 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees according to the **National Fire Protection Association**.

CO AND SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Install CO and Smoke Alarms on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

Be sure to test the alarms once a month and change the batteries yearly.



Happy Holidays
from ESFI

PREVENTION IS...

keeping decorations, or any other **flammable items** at least **3 ft** away from open flame and heat sources.



PREVENTION IS...

inspecting all decorations to ensure they do not have any **frayed or pinched wires** and discarding any **worn decorations**.



PREVENTION IS...

ensuring multiple **extension cords** are **never strung together** or run under rugs, carpets or furniture. And making sure those used **outdoors** are labeled "for outdoor use."



PREVENTION IS...

never leaving cooking equipment **unattended** and **turning off burners** if you have to leave the room.



PREVENTION IS...

never leaving a **space heater** unattended and **turning it off** when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and not letting **pets or children** play too close to a space heater.



PREVENTION IS...

watering Christmas Trees daily and **discarding trees** when they are dry and begin **dropping needles**.



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RALEIGH, N.C.— As deer hunting season commences around the state, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's [Home From the Hunt](#) campaign reminds hunters to be aware of their surroundings and positively identify their target before pulling the trigger.

“Every step in every hunting environment brings a new viewpoint,” said Chet Clark, the Commission’s recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) manager. “It’s the hunter’s responsibility to be aware of these changes and potentially dangerous shooting situations. Homes, vehicles or even people could be in front of or behind your target, so hunters should never use their rifle scope to identify their target. Instead, they should opt for binoculars or a spotting scope to be sure they’re taking a safe shot.”

The four primary rules of firearms safety are:

- Always point a firearm in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded and never assume a firearm is unloaded.
- Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target—and what’s in front of and behind it.

For more information on hunting seasons, licenses, Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permits and the [Hunter Education Program](#), go to www.ncwildlife.org or call 919-707-0031.



