



Home Safety: Are You Doing All You Can?

Many of us have already put up our holiday decorations for the season. Because many of these decorations involve the use of electricity, candles, extension cords, and other high risk fire hazards we have taken a moment to remind the community of some of the basic common sense steps that we can take to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe during this amazing time of year.

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

- NEVER use candles to decorate trees. Unsafe practice of the past, but still done for tradition's sake! If you must do it...never leave unattended
- Water cut trees daily. Rule of thumb: 1 qt water per 1" diameter per day (initially). Dispose of tree immediately after season ends before the needles dry out
- NEVER place near heat source i.e. space heater, fire place, radiators, etc.
- Artificial trees: Look for "Fire Resistant" label. May still catch fire, but will resist burning and extinguish quickly. NEVER use electric lights on metallic tree, faulty lights may charge the metal and electrocution may result
- Use "Non-tip" style tree stands
- Avoid lead-based decorations: hazardous to children if ingested

- * Always INSPECT for damage (Look for damaged insulation, splices, or loose plugs)
- * Never run through doorways or under rugs (Insulation can become damaged)
- * Match plugs with outlets (Never force a 3-prong plug into 2-prong socket)
- * Store cords indoors when not in use (Outdoor conditions can deteriorate cord over time)
- * Keep it Simple. Keep it Safe.
- * Use only lights tested by recognized testing laboratory (i.e. UL approved)
- * Check light strands for broken sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
- * NEVER use indoor lights outside
- * Green label = indoor use; Red = outdoor
- * Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house

