

# Stay Safe this Winter Holiday Season!

The Winter holiday season means lots of friends, families, food, and festivities and that's why we love it! But it can also mean a greater risk of fire. Follow these safety tips to keep your family, friends, and home safer this holiday season!

## ***Deck the Halls SAFELY! \****

- Holiday and tree decorations can be fire hazards. Make sure your decorations are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from your tree, decorations, gifts, or anything else that can burn. Better yet, replace all flame-burning candles with LED candles for peace of mind.
- Most string lights are either for indoor use or outdoor use, but not both. Check the box and use appropriately to minimize fire risk.
- Check your string lights every year and throw out any with worn or stripped cords or loose bulb connections. Also, be sure to not connect more light strands than allowed by each string. Read the manufacturer's instructions on the maximum number of light strands you can connect. Also be sure not to overload power strips.
- Do not use nails to hang string lights. Use clips so that the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors, as well as all heat sources.

## ***Enjoy the Festivities SAFELY!\****

- Be sure to test your smoke alarms before you have guests come over. Tell guests where the fire exits are and your emergency plan. You can make it fun and light, but be sure to share the information.
- Let everyone know where you keep the fire extinguishers.
- Keep kids and pets away from lit candles.
- Stay in the kitchen when you have something on the stovetop. If you need to step away, ask someone to watch the pots for you.
- Ask smokers to please smoke outside and to keep their smoking materials with them so kids do not have access to them.
- If someone does light up inside, wet cigarettes with water before discarding.

## **Before Going Out or To Bed...\***

- Blow out all lit candles when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Unplug all of the string lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## **DID YOU KNOW...?\***

- 40% of home decoration fires are started by candles?
- NEARLY HALF of decoration fires occur because decorations are placed too close to a heat source?

\*Source: National Fire Protection Association