

Fire Safety Tip for the Holidays



Christmas Trees

- Select a dark green, fresh cut tree with a strong evergreen smell.
- Make sure the base of the tree is immersed in water at all times – check the reservoir frequently.
- Use only CSA-approved lighting strings – throw damaged light strings away.
- If the tree starts to turn brown – remove it immediately.
- Don't leave the tree up too long – safely dispose of trees right after the holidays.

Space Heaters

- Place all space heaters at least one metre (three feet) away from anything that can burn – wallpaper, bedding and clothing.
- Turn off/unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Don't leave children/pets unattended with space heaters.
- Check electric space heaters for frayed cords or overheating.
- Use only the recommended fuel for liquid fueled heaters. Never use gasoline. Always turn off the heater and let it cool before refueling.
- An un-vented fuel-fired heater can produce deadly amounts of carbon monoxide. Ensure combustion gases are vented outdoors.

Fireplace Safety

- Burn small amounts of wood at frequent intervals.
- Don't burn paper, wrapping paper or pine boughs. This can cause sparks to drift out of your chimney and ignite your roof.
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned by a professional each winter.
- Use a screen in front of the fireplace to keep sparks in.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to light a fire. The vapours will explode.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container, stored outside away from combustibles.

Candles

- Never use lit candles to decorate a Christmas tree.
- Keep lit candles away from paper decorations and other flammable materials.
- Do not leave candles within reach of children or pets.
- Put candles in non-tip candleholders and place them on a firm surface where they won't be knocked over.
- Snuff candles out when the festivities are over. Never let the candles burn down to the bottom.

Supervise Children

- Fascination and curiosity about fire can lead a child to play with matches, lighters or flames within easy reach. This holiday season protect your children from fire.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children.
- Supervise children at all times when they are in a room with a fireplace, a Christmas tree, lit candles, space heater or other open flame or hot surfaces.

Test your Smoke Alarms

- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- Never remove the batteries from your smoke alarms for another purpose.
- Clean your smoke alarms by vacuuming the cover.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace detectors that are more than 10 years old.

Plan Your Escape

- Plan and practice a fire escape with your family. Plan two ways out of every room.
- Have a family meeting place outside.