



A Holiday Safety Message from Brevard County Fire Rescue

The weather is cooling down and that can only mean one thing- the holiday season is upon us! For many of us, the holidays are a time for celebration, coming together with family and friends, and decorating our homes for the season. Unfortunately, the holidays can also be a time of tragedy if families fail to follow some simple safety tips. While fire prevention is important year-round, it is especially important during the winter months to ensure that your family has a joyous holiday season.

Food Preparation

- Never leave cooking food unattended. The U.S. Fire Administration reports that cooking is the leading cause of residential structure fires on Thanksgiving Day and that the leading factor in the ignition of those fires is food left unattended.
- When using a turkey fryer, do not leave the fryer unattended while the burner is on.
- Turkey fryers should be used outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials. Never use fryers inside a garage or on wooden decks.
- DO NOT attempt to extinguish grease fires with water. Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher on hand. If the fire is manageable, use the extinguisher. If it is not, call 911 immediately for help.

Trees

- If you purchase an artificial tree, check the label for the words "Fire Resistant."
- Check live trees for freshness. A fresh tree will be green with needles that are hard to pull from the branches. If the needles are bent between the fingers they will not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Cutting a few inches off the bottom of the tree trunk will expose fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Be sure to keep the tree's stand filled with water. Heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.



Lights

- Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them-before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.



Candles

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.
- Always use non-flammable holders.
- Keep candles away from decorations and wrapping paper.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Fireplaces

- Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Brevard County Fire Rescue is proud to serve the citizens of Brevard County. Visit us online at brevardfire.us or contact us at 321-633-2056 for more information.

From our family to yours, best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!