



# SAFETY EDUCATOR

2015 HOLIDAY EDITION

'Tis the season to count our blessings, create lists and check things off. As we go about the busy and occasionally hectic holiday season, take a moment to ensure that your family, friends and visitors are kept fire and life safe by checking off these safety tips! "May you and yours have the safest and most memorable Holiday Season this year!"



## KITCHEN SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Kitchen Safety: Check!

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holiday season. Did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries? Follow a few safety tips to prevent these fires.

- ♥ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- ♥ Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling dinner.
- ♥ If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly. Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking.
- ♥ Keep anything that can catch fire~ oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains, and/or clothing~ away from the stovetop.

### IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE:

- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

### IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT FIGHTING A SMALL FIRE....

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.



CLICK for a quick video on cooking safety

## TURKEY FRYER SAFETY



The NH State Fire Marshal's Office strongly discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that cook the turkey in hot oil. The use of turkey fryers can lead to devastating burns as well as property damage. Take a moment to visit the links below to learn about the dangers, cooking alternatives and safety tips.

[WWW.NFPA.ORG](http://WWW.NFPA.ORG)

[WWW.CPSC.GOV](http://WWW.CPSC.GOV)

Click graphic above for STATE FARM VIDEO

[Carlsbad FD VIDEO Demonstration on Proper Safety with Turkey Fryer](#)

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Candle Safety: Check!



- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
  - Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
  - Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles!

**FACTS**

- ❗ On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every **30 minutes**.
- ❗ Roughly **two-fifths** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ❗ More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

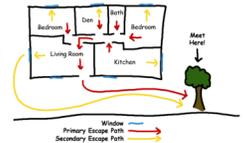
[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



## FIRE and LIFE SAFETY REMINDERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Staying home and hosting friends and family this holiday season? Be sure to take a moment to double check, or create, your home emergency preparedness plan and **SHARE** with visitors. Be sure to click on the green links to learn more!

- TEST SMOKE DETECTORS.** If you didn't change the batteries on Nov 1st, take a moment to do so now.
- CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** are properly placed and working according to manufacturer's directions.
- ESCAPE PLAN** with **TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM** is made, hanging in a central location and practiced with family members and visitors, especially those spending the night.
- Outdoor MEETING PLACE** is established and understood by all.
- Should an alarm sound, **GET OUT** and **STAY OUT**. Close all doors behind you. Do not return for any reason.
- REVIEW** use of 9-1-1 should an emergency arise and help be needed.
- Traveling for the holidays?** No matter where you are staying be sure to take a moment and **review escape plans and safety measures** for that type of home/occupancy. Keep your Family SAFE this holiday season.



### NOVEMBER: CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS and SAFETY

by: Katelyn Cempe, Highbridge Hill Elementary School



Carbon monoxide is known as an "Invisible Killer" because it is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is caused from faulty furnaces/heating appliances, cars left running in garages or misplaced portable generators. Katelyn reminds us this month that we can't smell or see carbon monoxide, that it can kill us and that the symptoms can send us to the emergency room. BE SAFE this holiday season with Katelyn's important messages!

HOLIDAY Safety: Check!

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## Winter Holidays



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 that can be connected together.
  - ▶ 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.



## CHRISTMAS TREES: Festive, Fun... and FLAMMABLE

TREE Safety: Check!

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. Follow these recommended safety tips.

### **Picking the Tree**

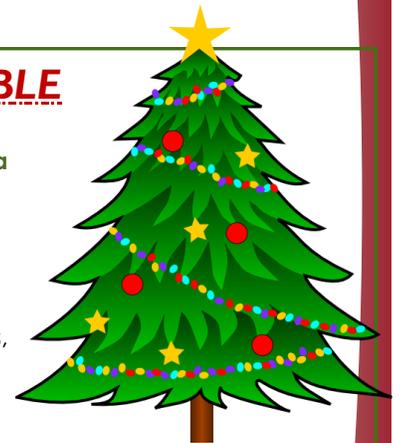
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

### **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 daily.

### **Lighting the Tree**

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized 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.



TREE Safety Tips:



Prevent Holiday Tree Fires:



## DECEMBER: CANDLE and HOLIDAY SAFETY

by: Sophia Moore, Elm Street School

- \* Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- \* Water your Christmas Tree. Dry trees pose a fire risk.
- \* Don't burn wrapping paper recycle it.
- \* Don't use too much Christmas lights. It could start a fire.

Thank you Sophia for your important messages. May citizens throughout the state be kept safer this holiday season with your reminders!





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## Safety Educator



### ***A message from Fire Marshal Degnan:***

'Tis the season for gatherings, gratitude and get-togethers. As the holiday season approaches, I want to take this opportunity to remind citizens throughout the State of New Hampshire to take a moment to create a safer community and home environment. During the 2015 year we have experienced an increase in preventable carbon monoxide deaths as well as fire incidents. By taking a moment to ensure that your safety list is properly checked, and double checked, many of these situations can be avoided. This interactive newsletter contains not only valuable information on how to do this, but excellent video links to enhance your understanding on the topics provided. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the State Fire Marshal's Office. We wish you and yours a safe and memorable holiday season!



J. William Degnan  
NH State Fire Marshal



### **Child Friendly & Parent Approved Websites**

While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, when it comes to computer time try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click the picture to open the links and play!



**Find Us on the Web:**

[www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/)



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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