

Holiday Safety Tips

December

Everyone from the Akron-Princeville Fire Department wishes you a happy and safe holiday season. As you celebrate this wonderful season, we ask that you remember the following safety precautions:

Christmas Trees

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, the needles are hard to pull from the branches, and the trunk is sticky with resin.
- When setting the tree up, place it away from fireplaces, radiators, or portable heaters.
- Cut a few inches from the trunk, this will help with water absorption, and will keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is "fire-resistant."

Lighting

- Before using lights outdoors, make sure they are labeled for outdoor use.
- Use plastic hangers to hold lights. Never use nails or tacks.
- Check lights before hanging them on your tree, make sure there are no missing bulbs or frayed wires.
- Plug outdoor decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid shocks.
- Always turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or before you leave the house.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or fire-resistant decorations to trim a tree.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near live evergreens.
- In homes with small children, avoid using decorations with sharp edges or that are breakable.
- Remove all wrapping paper, bags, bows, and ribbon from under the tree and away from the fireplace after opening gifts, as these can easily catch fire.

Fireplaces

- Before lighting a fire, remove all greens, papers, bows, ribbons, and other decorations from the fireplace area as they can easily catch fire.
- Never burn wrapping paper in the fireplace as they can suddenly ignite and burn intensely.
- Before lighting a fire, check to make sure your chimney is clean and clear of obstructions, and check to make sure the flue is open.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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