

HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holidays can be a wonderful time of year, but the decorations can bring risks along with the festive cheer. Dry trees, seasonal décor and other flammable materials mean even a small open flame can quickly lead to a dangerous fire.

Stay safe by knowing how to manage the health and safety hazards of holiday items in your home.

KEEP YOUR HOLIDAYS SAFE BY PAYING ATTENTION TO:

- CANDLES
- FIREPLACES
- CHRISTMAS TREES
- HOLIDAY LIGHTS
- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
- SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS
- CHILDREN AND PETS



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

HOLIDAY SAFETY



CANDLE SAFETY

- Use non-flammable holders for candles
- Keep candles away from curtains and holiday décor
- Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed
- Try battery-operated candles for a safer option that still gives a warm glow

FIREPLACE SAFETY

- Use a screen to keep sparks contained
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Make sure the fire is completely extinguished before bedtime
- Schedule annual chimney cleaning for wood-burning fireplaces to eliminate creosote buildup

WATER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

- Water your tree daily to reduce fire risk. A dry tree can ignite in seconds, so watering it is key
- If daily watering isn't practical, choose an artificial tree
- Keep your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces and space heaters

INSPECT HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- Inspect lights for frayed wires or broken bulbs before use
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- For outdoor lights, use weatherproof lights rated for outdoor use

KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER HANDY

- Keep a fire extinguisher near areas with open flames, such as the kitchen or fireplace
- Familiarize yourself with how to use the fire extinguisher
- Check the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure it is in working order

TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms every month
- Replace batteries as needed
- Install alarms on every floor and outside each sleeping area

SUPERVISE CHILDREN AND PETS

- Keep a close eye on kids and pets—they're often drawn to flames
- Create a "kid-free zone" around fireplaces, stoves and candles

Taking these precautions helps prevent accidents so you and your family can enjoy a safe, happy holiday season.

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