

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



FROM YOUR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

A Holiday message from the Fire Marshal:

The Holiday season is here. This is a time of festivities and joy, but we need to be aware that there can also be an element of danger. In an effort to help keep your holiday season joyful and safe, we would like to take a few moments to remind you of some important fire safety issues.

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve are the highlights of the holiday season. Gatherings of people, food, drink, fancy clothing, candles, decorations and the fireplace are all part of these events. However, lurking in the shadows are hazards which can destroy the happiest of holidays. Fire safety tends to take a back seat to all of the celebration and excitement. Holiday safety needs to be a part of our planning and preparation as we enter this festive season. Following are a few fire safety tips and suggestions designed to make your holiday season remembered for its' joyfulness, not for its' tragedy:



General Suggestions

Test your smoke detectors. Replace old batteries as necessary.

Clean the oven and stove prior to the holiday. Often the extra load on these appliances can cause a fire due to high use and extra grease build-up.

Be extra careful with candles. Candles holders should be flame retardant.

Avoid loose, flammable clothing. Clothing often catches fire around candles, matches, fireplaces and stoves (both electric and gas). Do you know the **STOP-DROP-ROLL** safety technique in case your clothes catch on fire?

Keep decorations away from sources of heat; such as open flames, electric heaters and exposed electric bulbs. Maintain a safe clearance to all heating appliances.

Don't overload electric outlets. Avoid using multi-plug adapters. Inspect electrical cords and light sets. If in doubt - throw them out!!!

Christmas Trees



Try to pick the freshest Christmas tree possible. Look for trees which are not losing green needles and one whose needles snap crisply (like a fresh carrot) when bent.

Make a fresh cut on the trunk of your tree at least one-half inch above the original cut.

Keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy base filled with water and check the water level daily. Always maintain water in the base. Do not let the cut end of the tree dry out.

Remember, fresh cut trees can "drink" up to a quart of water per day per inch of trunk diameter. Water use will gradually lessen.

Place the tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and heaters. Never place a Christmas tree in an exit path.

Do not use candles on or near the tree.

Safely dispose of your tree if it has become dangerously dry. Never burn a tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

Decorative Lights



Purchase only UL approved lights.

Check all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed, worn or damaged cords.

Replace if necessary.

Never use lights that have an empty socket.

Lights should not touch combustible materials.

NEVER use "OUTDOOR" light indoors and "INDOOR" lights outdoors.

Check the label!!!

Turn off all Christmas lights, prior to leaving your home or going to bed.

Mini lights are safest because they produce less heat.

Avoid using extension cords, but if you do, follow instructions carefully.

Do not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords.

Avoid using multi plug adapters, use an approved circuit strip.

Holiday Wrappings



Keep combustible materials away from heat sources.

Never burn wrappings in your fireplace.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the
Pierce County Fire Prevention Bureau

(253-798-7179), or your local fire department.

**May you have a happy and fire safe
holiday season!!!**

Wayne A. Wienholz, Fire Marshal

