



Clark County Fire Department Holiday Safety Tips

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- Keep Christmas trees away from fireplaces, heaters and other heat sources.
- Select a fresh tree. Needles should be green and should not break off easily. The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- Water Christmas trees daily to keep them from drying out.
- Do not leave a live tree up for more than 2 weeks.
- If you are using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Holiday Lights & Decorations

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive wear before putting them up.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Limit use of extension cords to temporary uses. They should not serve as a permanent power source for any appliance or stationary device.
- Never run extension cords under rugs or furniture.
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Link no more than three light strands unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Never dispose of wrapping paper in a fireplace. It can result in a very large fire, throwing off sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

- Place candles in stable holders and locate them where they cannot be easily knocked down by children or pets.
- Keep candles at least 3 feet away from table clothes, drapery or items that can burn. Over half (55 percent) of home candle fires start because the fire is too close to combustible material.
- Never fall asleep if a candle is burning. (Falling asleep is a factor in 12 percent of home candle fires and 26 percent of associated deaths. More candle fires, 38 percent, begin in the bedroom than any other room.)
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Beware of using candles for light. The risk of fatal candle fires appears higher when candles are used for light.

Cooking Safety

When cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen so you do not leave cooking food unattended.
- Always supervise children in cooking areas.
- Keep flammable materials – such as oven mitts, utensils, wrappers and towels – away from the stove.
- Stay alert. If you are tired or consuming alcohol, don't cook because you are more likely to make mistakes. Every year, fires are started when someone unintentionally turns on or forgets to turn off their oven or burners.
- Have a multi-purpose, ABC-rated fire extinguisher nearby. Every kitchen should have one.

If you have a cooking fire:

- For a small, stove-top fire, turn off the burner; then put a lid on the pan or pot to smother the fire.
- For an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed.
- Do not use water to put out a grease fire. Water will not extinguish a grease fire; instead water will splash the burning grease out of the pan and spread the fire. Use a lid, baking soda or fire extinguisher on the flames.

Don't take risks with fire. When in doubt, get out of the home and call 911. Close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Nationally, more than half of all reported home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.