



# SAFETY TIPS

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## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

As the holidays approach, the Moraine Fire Department is urging people to look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 1,300 people for injuries relate to holiday lights and 6,200 people for injuries related to holiday decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in about 400 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 80 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and damage each year.

Decorating our homes for the holidays is a beautiful tradition, and to ensure this holiday season is a safe and happy one, please follow these common sense safety tips.

### TREES

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles and hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when bounced on the ground the tree should not loose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

### LIGHTS

- Indoor or outdoor, use only lights that have been tested for safety.
- Check each set of lights new or old, for cracks ,frayed wires, or loose connections.
- Use no more than three sets of lights in a series.
- Turn off lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.

### DECORATIONS

- Use only non-combustible materials to trim a tree.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near evergreens.
- Take special care to avoid placing decorations that are sharp or breakable in the reach of small children.

### FIREPLACES

- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.
- Don't hang Christmas stockings in front of the fireplace mantel when the fireplace is in use.

- Always use a screen on front of the fireplace to protect against flying sparks.
- Use only seasoned and dried wood. Do not use pressure treated wood.
- Clean the ashes regularly. Place the ashes in a metal container and store outside away from combustible materials.

Chief Trick, and all the members of the Moraine Fire Department wish you and your family the safest and happiest holiday season.