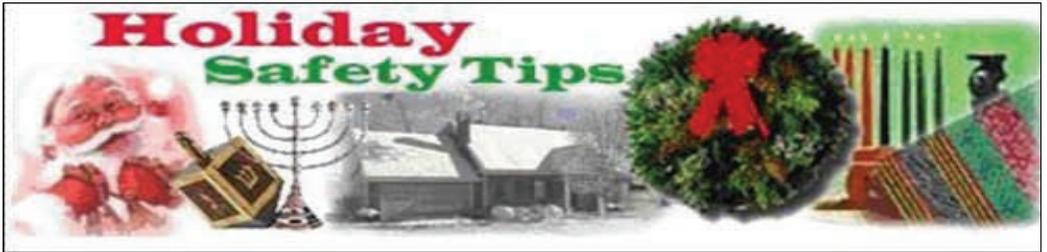




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Safety Educator



With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it seems that there is never enough time to get everything done. It's important to make sure that safety doesn't get left off the To Do List. During the holiday season fires cause more than \$18 million in property damage and holiday decorating injuries send more than 13,000 to the emergency room. Help keep your family safe this season with these quick simple steps!

1. WATER Water Water Your Tree – dry trees pose a fire risk, make a fresh cut on the base before putting your tree into a sturdy stand and water daily

2. Check Your Lights, Check Them Twice:

Inspect all of your electric lights and decorations for damage or wear. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections may pose a fire or shock hazard.



CHECK FOR FRAYED WIRES THAT MAY POSE HAZARD

3. Plan Your Fire Escape: use the holidays as a good time to practice a fire escape plan with your loved ones. Identify your

"two ways out" from every room in the house.

4. Sleep Safe: Install carbon monoxide alarms – be sure that at least one carbon monoxide alarm is installed on each floor of your home, and always close to sleeping areas.

5. Be Flame Aware: Always blow out unattended candles and teach your children to stay away from lit candles and fireplaces.

6. Give Wrapping Paper a Second Life: don't burn used wrapping paper as it may cause intense flash fires. And throwing it out adds waste. Consider recycling.

~ Continued pg 2



Toy Safety

holiday season -- and all year round:

Parents and gift-givers can help prevent toy-related injuries and deaths by always reading labels and being safety conscious. The following tips will help you choose appropriate toys this

* Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child.

* Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.

* For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard.

* For all children under age 9, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

~ Continued pg 2

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In the event of an emergency, be sure you and your children know how to use 9-1-1 with the phone you own.



Use Candles With Care



Hey Kids! Sparky the Dog here and I want to remind you about candle safety during the holidays!

- Candles need adult supervision. You should never try to light a candle without an adult there to help you.
- If an adult does light a candle, they should never leave you alone in the room with the candle burning. If they do remind them "Hey there's a candle burning in here don't forget!"
- If anyone ever leaves matches or a lighter lying around after light-

ing a candle, remind the grown up that they were left behind and that they should be put in a safe place.

- Candles should always be placed in a sturdy candleholder on a solid surface that won't burn. And up high enough so that kids and pets can't reach them.
- Candles should never be placed near a window because wind could blow the curtains into the flame.
- Remember a candle is a small fire. If paper, books, napkins, curtains or anything that could catch fire gets near it may cause a house fire.
- If you see a candle burning, try

not to walk too close to it so that it isn't bumped and knocked over.

- Unless it's your birthday it's not a good idea to blow a candle out. It's much safer to use a candle quencher, or snuffer. See if you have one in your house for the grown up to use next time.



www.nfpa.org

Safe Holiday Tips cont...

7. Check Extension Cords: Do not connect more than three miniature light strings together. Be sure to check the rating on your extension cords and do not plug more than the recommended wattage.

8. Steer Your Tree Clear: Your tree should be positioned at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. It should also not block any

doorways or exits.

9. Decorate With A Safe Eye: Cords should not be run under carpets or tacked-up with metal nails or staples. Small decorations can be choking hazards so keep them out of the reach of toddlers.

For Additional Information
check out these sites:

www.cpsc.gov

www.nfpa.org

10. Look for UL Mark : The Underwriters Laboratory mark **UL** on a product means that samples of that product have been tested to the highest safety standards. Make sure to look for it to help keep your holidays safe and bright.



Toy Safety cont...

* Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.

* Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use information as a guide.

* Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and

other potential choking hazards.

* Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.

* Discard plastic wrappings and other toy packaging before they become dangerous play things.

* Battery charging should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay at-

tention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent overcharging.

Consumers can check **any** gift bought and received for safety recalled toys or products on the Consumer Product Safety Commission website: www.cpsc.gov

www.safekids.gov

Turkey Fryer Safety



During the holidays we look forward to that perfectly cooked turkey. With a turkey fryer, what used to take several hours now

takes only 45 minutes. Every year deep fat fryers are responsible for around 1,000 fires, resulting in 5 deaths and 60 injuries. As this trend increases, the statistics are likely to become worse - possibly leading to more loss of life. Because of the risks attributed to turkey fryers, Underwriters Laboratories will not certify any fryer with their trusted UL mark and many safety organizations warn against their use. The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated, prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If **any smoke at all** is noticed coming from a heating

pot of oil, the burner should be turned off immediately because the oil is overheated.

Should consumers choose to fry turkeys follow these safety guidelines:

→Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.

→Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.

→Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.

→Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.

→COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.

→Check the oil temperature frequently.

→If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.

→If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. **DO NOT** extinguish fire with water.

Follow these guidelines as prepare to use a turkey fryer:

▶ Make sure there is at least 2 feet of space between the liquid propane

tank and fryer burner.

▶ Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.

▶ Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.

▶ Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds) and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.

▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:

-Place turkey in pot

-Fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water

-Remove and dry turkey

-Mark water level. Dump water, dry the pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

www.cpsc.gov

www.nfpa.org/safety

www.usfa.fema.gov



Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to the use of portable generators for a temporary solution. The primary hazards to avoid when using a portable generator are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution and fire. Please follow these simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from improper use of portable generators:

To avoid Carbon Monoxide (CO) Hazards:

▶ Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and

vents.

▶ Never use a generator in homes, basements, or in an attached garage even with the door open.

▶ Follow manufacturer's instructions.

▶ Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.

To avoid Electrical Hazards:

▶ Keep Generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open canopy.

▶ Dry hands before touching.

▶ Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Be sure extension cord has been inspected and

For more info: www.usfa.fema.gov

www.nfpa.org/education

free of any damage including cuts, tears and is 3 prong.

▶ NEVER plug generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.

▶ Have qualified electrician install appropriate equipment.



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firesafety/](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/)

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Safety Educator

It is our hope that the citizens of NH take every precaution to prepare and protect their families and home during this holiday season. As our lives become busier, it is even more important to think about what if my family has an emergency, are we prepared to handle it? We hope you take a moment to look through this newsletter and see what you can do to ensure the safety of your home, family, friends and neighbors. We ask that you share with your kids this age appropriate material and work together on the various topics that are presented. We encourage you to contact your local fire department should you need any assistance. Thank you and be safe.

Any Questions or Comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!

(Kid friendly & Parent/Educator approved websites)



Check out these kid friendly websites related to fire and life safety



www.sparky.org



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



www.ready.gov/kids



www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/



www.dangerrangers.com



www.firefighterdayna.com