

December 23, 2019

Holiday Safety

The holidays are here! It is a joyous time of year to be spent with friends and family, but all of the things that make it so great also present some dangers. Let's make sure that we take the necessary precautions to keep our loved ones safe this season. Here are some tips from the National Safety Council on safe practices with candles, lights, and decorations:

Candles

- Place candles where they can't easily get knocked over, especially by pets and children.
- Keep candles at least three feet away from flammable materials.
- Blow all candles out any time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- Store candles, lighters, and matches in a locked cabinet away from children.

Lights

- Check all tree lights (even new ones) to make sure there are no frayed wires or loose connections.
- Make sure the lights you put up outdoors are specifically for outdoor use. Do not use tacks or nails to hang them; use hooks or insulated staples.
- To avoid shocks, plug outdoor electrical decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Always turn off all lights before going to bed or leaving the house to avoid potential fires.

Decorations

- Use only non-flammable decorations to trim your tree.
- If you have children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep small removable parts out of their reach to prevent choking. Also, avoid decorations that resemble candy or food so that your children don't attempt to eat them.
- When decorating with "angel hair," wear gloves to prevent eye and skin irritation. Carefully use artificial snow sprays to avoid lung irritation.

