



Holiday Fire Safety

As you gather with family and friends this holiday season remember these tips to help keep you and your loved ones fire-safe:

- Choose decorations that are flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations or other things that can burn.
- If getting a tree, pick one with fresh, green needles that don't fall off when touched.
- Cut 2" from the base of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand; make sure there is water in the stand and that you add water daily.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3' away from any heat source (heat vents, fireplaces, radiators, candles, lights) and that it is not blocking any exits.
- When lighting the tree, use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory; never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections; make sure to read instructions for number of light strands that can be connected.
- Always turn off tree lights, and blow out lit candles, before leaving home or going to bed.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Remember to test your smoke alarms and make sure guests know about your fire escape plan.
- Recycle your tree after the holiday or when it is dry; dried out trees are a fire hazard and should not be kept in/near the home or garage.



Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services encourages you to take these precautions to help you enjoy a happy and safe winter holiday season.

