

# Holiday Safety



Each year fires occur during the holiday season, claiming the lives of over 400 Americans, injuring 1,650 more, and causing over \$990 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration.

Lighting with electric voltage is involved with an estimated 170 home fires every year according to the National Fire Protection Association. These fires also cause an average of seven deaths, 17 injuries, and almost \$8 million in property damage.

## Holiday Lighting

- Use lights that have the mark of an independent testing lab.
- Display lights as they are intended. Place indoor lights indoors.
- Unplug lights before you sleep or leave home.
- Discard lights with cracked sockets or frayed cords. These problems can cause an electric shock or a fire.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Remembering that many decorative lights are temporary. They are not intended for long-term use.
- Install smoke alarms in your home.
- Check your home smoke alarms by pressing the test button.
- Replace home smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.

## Candles

Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, remember to:

- Burn candles inside a three-foot "circle of safety", free of anything that can burn, such as curtains, furniture, blankets, papers and clothing.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candleholder.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Always make sure an adult is in the room.
- Extinguish candles when you leave the room, go to bed or sleep.

## Decorations

- Use only decorations that are nonflammable or flame retardant.
- Keep decorations away from heat sources such as heating vents, candles, fireplaces, smoking materials, etc.