

Christmas Trees

<p>Fresh trees can dry out quickly indoors, and a dry tree can ignite faster than many people realize. Heat sources, faulty lights, or overloaded outlets can raise the risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Water your tree every day to keep it from drying out.- Keep the tree at least three feet from fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters.- Turn off tree lights when leaving home or going to bed.- Remove the tree promptly once it becomes dry.
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Christmas Lights and Electrical Decorations

<p>String lights and other electrical decorations can wear down over time. Damaged wires or connections, using indoor lights outdoors, or plugging too many items into one outlet can create unsafe conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inspect lights before hanging them. Replace any with frayed wires or cracked sockets.- Use LED lights when possible—they stay cooler and use less electricity.- Avoid overloading outlets or linking too many extension cords.- Use outdoor-rated lights and cords for exterior displays.
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Candles and Open Flames

<p>Candles are popular during the holidays but can easily ignite decorations, curtains, or a tree if placed too close or left unattended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Keep candles at least a foot away from anything that can burn.- Use sturdy holders and place them on stable surfaces.- Never leave a lit candle unattended.- Consider battery-operated candles as a safer alternative.
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Heating Equipment

<p>Space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves see more use in December. Items placed too close, or chimneys that haven't been cleaned, can create hazards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Keep space heaters at least three feet from decorations, gifts, and furniture.- Choose heaters with automatic shutoff features.- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected annually.- Use a protective screen in front of fireplaces to contain sparks.
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Holiday Cooking

<p>Many home fires start in the kitchen. With guests, celebrations, and busy schedules, it's easy to become distracted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stay in the kitchen when using the stovetop.- Keep wrapping paper, towels, and decorations away from heat sources.- Watch oils closely—they ignite quickly.- Keep children and pets at a safe distance from the cooking area.
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Seasonal Decorations

<p>Paper, fabric, and greenery can dry out or sit too close to heat sources. Battery-powered displays may overheat if damaged or left on continuously.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Place paper, fabric, and greenery away from heaters, fireplaces, and stove areas.- Inspect small decorative displays for worn cords or excessive heat.- Use flame-retardant materials when possible.
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Holiday Gatherings

<p>More people at your home can mean blocked exits, unfamiliar surroundings for visitors, and distractions that affect fire safety awareness.</p>	<p>Keep hallways, stairs, and exits clear of gifts and decorations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Make sure overnight guests know how to exit the home in an emergency.- Test smoke alarms to confirm they are working properly.
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