



The holiday season can bring great joy and excitement to families around the valley. Whether you are celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or New Year's, follow these guidelines for a safe and happy holiday.

General Rules

- ❖ **T**est your smoke detectors monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year.
- ❖ **K**eep matches, lighters, candles, decorative lights and electrical decorations out of reach of children.
- ❖ **H**ave an emergency escape plan. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- ❖ **K**eep a fire extinguisher on hand.

Lights and Candles

- ❖ **N**ever use candles on a Christmas tree.
- ❖ **P**lace candles where they will not be knocked down.
- ❖ **K**eep lights or candles away from anything that could easily catch fire.
- ❖ **A**lways use non-flammable holders, Kinaras, Advent wreaths, and Menorahs.
- ❖ **N**ever leave holiday lights or candles unattended.
- ❖ **I**nspect all lights and cords before using them. Discard all lights with cracked or broken wiring.
- ❖ **U**se only UL or FM approved lights and never overload circuits.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees are a part of the traditional holiday celebration. If not handled properly, they can cause an extremely dangerous fire threat. A dried out tree can catch fire and burn a living room in just 30 seconds.

- ❖ **W**hen buying a live tree, look for one that is not shedding needles. If branches snap when bent, the tree is already too dry.
- ❖ **K**eep trees watered. A mixture of lemon-lime soda and water will keep a tree moist longer.
- ❖ **K**eep trees away from all heat sources including fireplaces, room heaters or potbelly stoves.
- ❖ **W**hen purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- ❖ **S**ecure the tree in the stand to keep it from toppling.
- ❖ **W**hen the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.

Holiday Decorations

- ❖ **K**eep wrapping paper and ribbons away from heat sources. This includes candles, lights, stoves and heaters.
- ❖ **H**olly and mistletoe are poisonous. Keep them away from children.
- ❖ **W**rapping paper and ribbon should be thrown away in trash containers, not fireplaces. Burning paper and ribbon could cause a chimney fire.
- ❖ **P**ut decorations high enough on the tree so children or pet can't reach them.

Kitchen Safety

- ❖ **S**tart the holidays with a clean stove and oven.
- ❖ **K**eep the kitchen off limits to young children.
- ❖ **W**hen cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry.
- ❖ **C**ook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- ❖ **N**ever leave cooking unattended.

Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots.

Have a safe and happy holiday season

www.phoenix.gov/fire/prevention

