



**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Public Information Office

12/3/09

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Public Service Announcement

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### Winter/Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The winter holidays are a wonderful time for family get-togethers and celebrations. They are also a time when fire departments nationwide see a significant increase in preventable home fires.

Hundreds of civilians die needlessly each winter season as a result of fires involving Christmas trees, candles and unattended cooking. By taking some simple precautionary steps everyone can enjoy the lights and festivities and remain safe while doing so.

#### \*Holiday Decorating and Entertaining:

- Test your smoke alarms.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Place Christmas trees at least 3 ft. from fireplaces, furnaces or any other heat source.
- Water live Christmas trees on a regular basis (trees should have fresh green needles) and dispose of them safely within 4 weeks of placing them.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Use clips, not nails to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Blow out lit candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Turn off all string lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Do not burn Christmas tree branches or wrapping paper in fireplaces.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop.

**The San Francisco Fire Department wishes you a happy, healthy and SAFE Holiday Season!**

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