

HEARTLAND FIRE & RESCUE

Holiday Fire Safety & Prevention



Serving the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa, and Lemon Grove

Important Information

Please note, this presentation is for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and is not intended to and should not be relied upon or construed as a legal opinion or legal advice regarding any specific issue or factual circumstance. During COVID-19 or other designated emergency situations, follow all health orders for specific activities.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

- ❖ Ensure that children are visible in the dark.
 - ❖ Use flashlights and appropriate reflective and/or glow-in-the dark materials as part of, or as additions to, their costumes.
- ❖ Make sure that costumes are fire and trip-and-fall safe.
 - ❖ Trim all excess material from costumes.
- ❖ Talk to your children about staying out of the street and other hazardous areas while out trick-or-treating.

Holiday Fire Safety

Common holiday home fire causes:

- Cooking

- Christmas Trees

- Candles

- Holiday Decorations

Cooking Safety

COOK WITH CAUTION

- Be alert!
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Have a working fire extinguisher present.
- Keep anything that can catch fire –
(Oven mitts, wooden utensils, towels, curtains, etc.)



**AWAY FROM YOUR STOVETOP
AND ANY OPEN FLAMES!**

Cooking Grease Fire Safety

- **NEVER use water on cooking grease fires!** Water can spread the fire and cause it to increase in intensity.
- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid or cookie sheet over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.

Cooking Grease Fire Safety

If you have any doubt about not being able to extinguish a small fire . . .

JUST GET OUT !!!

➤ Attempt to evacuate family and pets if safe to do so. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Call 9-1-1 !!! or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Cooking with Kids

- Have a “kids-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



FACTS

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

Christmas Tree Safety

- Picking the Tree – Choose a fresh tree with **green** needles that do not fall off when touched.
 - Have the business that you purchase the tree from cut 2” from the base of the trunk so that the tree can continue to absorb water and maintain moisture.
- Place the tree at least three feet away from heat vents and lights.
- Do not block exits or exit pathways with your tree.
- Use listed Christmas tree lights that are designed to be placed on the tree (listed on the package by UL/Underwriters Laboratories, FM Factory Mutual, etc.). Replace worn or broken cords or loose blubs. **NEVER USE CANDLES ON OR NEAR THE TREE!**
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving your residence or going to bed.

Christmas Tree Safety

After Christmas

- Remove and recycle your tree after Christmas or when it is visibly dry.
 - Do not leave the tree in your home, garage, or placed outside near the house.
- Remove outdoor lights and store them according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

FACTS

- One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical issues.
- When Christmas tree fires occur they are more likely cause a significant fire in the home.
- A heat source too close to the tree is the cause of roughly one in every four Christmas tree fires.



Candles



- **WHENEVER POSSIBLE USE BATTERY POWERED CANDLE SIMULATORS.**
- Use candles with care
 - Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid candles in the bedroom or other area where people may sleep.
 - Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything combustible.
- If you choose to use candles, make sure that you . . .
 - Use listed and approved candle holders.
 - Put candle holders on a sturdy and uncluttered surface.
 - Light them carefully, and if using matches ensure that the matches are extinguished before disposing of them.
 - Don't allow free-standing candles to burn all the way down.
 - Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home or if oxygen tanks are stored nearby.

Candles and Kids

NEVER LEAVE a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.



FACTS

- December is the peak time of the year for candle related fires in the home.
- Roughly one-third of home candle fires start in the bedroom.
- More than half of all candle fires start when combustible materials are too close to the candle.

New Years

- Fireworks are illegal and extremely hazardous! Please do not endanger yourself or others!
- Sky lanterns are responsible for many fires and are not permitted at any time! Please do not place your community at risk with their use.

