

Oh Christmas Tree...

- ◆ When picking an artificial tree, look for the label "FIRE-RESISTANT."
- ◆ When picking a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from the branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.
- ◆ When setting up your tree at home, place it away from heat sources. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- ◆ Cut a few inches off the trunk of your live tree to expose fresh wood, allowing for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- ◆ Be sure to keep the tree stand filled with water, heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.
- ◆ Make sure the base is steady so the tree won't tip over easily.
- ◆ Do not mount lights in any way that could damage the cord's insulation. Never pull or tug on lights to remove them.
- ◆ Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree could become charged with electricity, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- ◆ Keep children and pets away from all light strings and electrical decorations.
- ◆ Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.
- ◆ Choose tinsel and artificial icicles made of plastic and lead-free materials.
- ◆ Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food, a young child may be tempted to put them in his mouth.
- ◆ Avoid decorations that are breakable or sharp, keep decorations with small parts out of children's reach.

Preparing Holiday Meals

Unattended cooking is a leading cause of home fires in the US. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.

- ◆ **Stand by your pan.** Don't leave boiling, frying or broiling food unattended.
- ◆ **Never move a burning pan.** You can be badly burned or spread the fire.
- ◆ **Never throw water on a grease fire.** Water will only spread the fire and the force from a fire extinguisher could splash flaming grease out of the pan. Place a lid over a grease fire to smother it, then turn off the heat. Baking soda will also work.
- ◆ Wear short or tight fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can easily catch fire.

Turkey Deep Fryer Hazards

Outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers cook up juicy turkeys in a fraction of the time it takes to roast one in an oven. However, they pose an enormous risk of injury. Outdoor fryers heat gallons of cooking oil to very high temperatures. The risk of spilling oil is significant, and the resulting injuries can be severe.

- ◆ Keep fryer in **FULL VIEW** while burner is on.
- ◆ Place fryer in an open area **AWAY** from all walls, fences and other structures.
- ◆ Never use **IN, ON** or **UNDER** a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or any other structure that can catch fire.
- ◆ **COVER** bare skin when adding or removing food.
- ◆ Check the oil temperature frequently.
- ◆ If oil begins to smoke, **IMMEDIATELY** turn the gas supply **OFF**.
- ◆ If fire occurs, **IMMEDIATELY CALL 911**.

Grand Island Fire Department

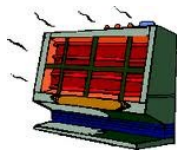
Winter/Holiday Fire Safety Tips



FIRE SAFETY
We all take part

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ◆ US fire departments responded to an average of 210 home structure fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 7 deaths, 9 injuries and \$17.5 million in direct property damage annually.
- ◆ During 2009 - 2013, an estimated 9,300 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 86 civilian deaths, 827 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$374 million.
- ◆ Two of every five reported home fires start in the kitchen - more than any other place in the home.
- ◆ Half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2009-2013.
- ◆ The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented.



HOLIDAY DECORATING

- ◆ Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- ◆ Keep lit candles away from decorations and other items that can burn, never use candles on trees.
- ◆ Check your light strings. Some are designed for **ONLY** inside or **ONLY** outside use, but not both.
- ◆ Replace any string of 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.
- ◆ Read manufacturer's instructions for the correct number of LED strands to connect.
- ◆ Use clips or insulated staples, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- ◆ **Holiday decoration fires** are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den.
- ◆ **Almost half** of all home fires are started by candles.
- ◆ **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Before Heading Out or to Bed...

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. Unplug unused extension cords.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- ◆ **Test** your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- ◆ Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- ◆ Some holiday plants and decorations can be poisonous to children and pets.
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet. Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- ◆ Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts in water before placing them in any trash can.

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire safe holiday season.



Grand Island Fire Department

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- ◆ Station 2
1720 N. Broadwell Ave. 385-5310
- ◆ Station 3
2310 S. Webb Road 385-5337
- ◆ Station 4
3690 W. State St. 385-5387