

# There's No Place Like Home For the Holidays!

*Winter is a time for celebration! Winter holidays are a time for family gatherings, and are celebrated with special foods, customs, and decorations in your home. Without safety precautions, these observances may increase the risk for fire and burn related injury. Whether your family celebrates Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another winter holiday, the same basic safety principals apply to keep your family and your home safe from fire and burns!*

## COOKING SAFETY

Winter holidays often revolve around food and feasts! During these times there can be increased traffic in the kitchen. Increased activity and excitement can often make people less careful just when they should be more cautious!



- ⇒ When cooking, do not become distracted by attending to children, ringing door-bells, or answering phone calls.
- ⇒ Create a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around your stove.
- ⇒ Keep the cooking area free of towels, paper, or anything that could burn.
- ⇒ Turn pot handles to the back of the stove to prevent burn caused by overturning or spills.
- ⇒ Remember to never use metal objects or aluminum foil in the microwave! They can cause a fire and damage the microwave.
- ⇒ Before you start to cook, roll up sleeves and use oven mitts. Loose-fitting clothes can touch a hot burner and catch on fire.
- ⇒ Do not use a tablecloth or placemats if very young children are in the home. If children pull on the tablecloth, hot liquid and food can come down and burn them.

## HOLIDAY GUESTS

Often around the holidays, you will not only have guests, but they may end up spending the night! You need to take special precautions when you have overnight guests to ensure everyone's safety!



- ⇒ Make sure everyone is aware of your family's escape plan, and knows two ways out of each guest room.
- ⇒ Make sure guests' purses and bags are out of the reach of children, especially if they might contain matches or lighters!
- ⇒ Make all guests aware of where your fire extinguisher is and how to use it.
- ⇒ Show guests where your emergency numbers are posted.

## **CANDLE SAFETY**



More than 33 percent of candle fires occur when candles are left unattended. HALF of the people killed by candle fires in the home are under the age of 20, with most victims between the ages of 5 and 9.

Whether it be a Menorah, Kinara, Advent Wreath, or just decorative candles, they are a part of almost every winter holiday celebration. Knowing how to use them safely can help prevent home fires and burn hazards!



- ⇒ Keep all candles out of the reach of children!! Do not place candles where they could be knocked over by a pet.
- ⇒ Do not leave candles unattended...make sure you blow them out before leaving the room, leaving the house, or going to bed.
- ⇒ Keep all candles away from curtains, blankets, or anything flammable.
- ⇒ Put candles in a sturdy, non-tip candle holder before you light them. Use only flame-protective, non-combustible shades or globes.
- ⇒ Extinguish candles when they burn within two inches of their holders.
- ⇒ Never put candles on a Christmas tree!
- ⇒ If possible, use the safest option....battery operated, flameless candles. They are available in numerous shapes, sizes, and colors.



## **DECORATIONS**

- ⇒ Use only non-flammable decorations.
- ⇒ Do not place Christmas trees near a heat source. Be sure to keep your tree stand filled with water at all times.
- ⇒ Inspect your holiday lights each year for frayed wires or other wear. Replace any lights that show signs of wear. Never use indoor lights outdoors!
- ⇒ Do not overload outlets or string more than three light strands together.
- ⇒ Always turn off holiday lights before leaving the house or going to bed.
- ⇒ Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace! It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may cause a chimney fire.
- ⇒ Make sure trees and other holiday decorations do not block exits.



## **MAKE A WINTER SUN CATCHER!**



- 1) First, make sure it's below freezing outside! Next, create colorful ice cubes by adding one to three drops of food coloring to the water in each section of an ice cube tray. Use only a few matching colors, as they will run together in the pan later. Freeze the cubes completely.
- 2) Fill a round cake pan about two-thirds full of water. To make the hole for the ribbon, set a plastic cup full of water in the pan. Place the pan in the freezer for an hour or so. Put the colored ice cubes in the pan, then let all the liquid freeze solid. Remove the plastic cup, flip the sun catcher out of the pan, then hang it outside with ribbon.