

# December Tip of the Month

According to the National Fire Protection Association, December is one of the most dangerous months for house fires. With increased use of fireplaces, Christmas trees, decorations and candles around the house, there are many more risks to consider. Here are some tips to help you have a safe holiday season.



- \* Consider using battery- operated flameless candles instead of real candles. They are safer and can be left alone if needed. If you must use real candles, make sure that they are at least 12 inches from anything that is flammable.

- \* Holiday decorations are a big part of the season. One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems. Check your lights before you put them on a tree or on your house. Make sure that the wires are not frayed or worn. Ensure that they are properly grounded when you put them up.
- \* If you use a live tree, make sure that it has plenty of water *every day*. Remember, if you have animals, they might think they have a new water bowl!
- \* Ensure that your tree is a safe distance from any ignition source like heaters or fireplaces.



- \* If you have not done so already, have your chimney inspected and cleaned if necessary.
- \* Never use flammable liquids to start a fire!
- \* Avoid putting too much wood in your fireplace. Overloading your fireplace or building a very large fire can be dangerous.

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