

Holiday Fire Safety

The Caroline County Department of Fire-Rescue offers these Holiday fire safety tips!

Christmas Tree Safety

Fire prevention in your home is the first step to protecting your family. During the holidays, do not place your tree close to a heat source like a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited. Water your tree daily. Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When your tree becomes dry, remove it from the house.

Holiday Light Safety

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive wear. Do not overload outlets and connect strings of UL lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Never leave holiday lights on when you leave the house or go to bed.

Candle Safety

Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Every Home Should Have Working Smoke Alarms

According to the United States Fire Administration, having a working smoke alarm more than doubles your chance of surviving a fire. Nearly half of residential fires and three-fifths of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke detectors. Smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, flashlights and home escape ladders make great holiday gifts! Buy a smoke alarm at any hardware or discount store. It's inexpensive protection for you and your family. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarms monthly, keep them free of dust and check the manufacturer's instruction on how often to change the batteries. Some smoke alarms even have long-life lithium batteries that last for the life of the detector. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after ten years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Plan Your Escape

Plan and practice a home fire drill. Find two ways out of every room and designate a place to meet outside. Instruct everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping to avoid dangerous smoke and heat. Also, remember that you should feel a door before opening. If the door is hot, you need to escape another way. If you have family and friends visiting you during the holidays, share your fire escape plan with them.

The Caroline Department of Fire-Rescue wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!