



Holiday Safety Tips

Because we value you as a partner.



Holiday safety is an issue that is at the forefront from late November through mid-January. Decorating, extra electricity usage, cooking, parties and celebrations, as well as travel all increase at this time. Sometimes, amongst all the festivities, people can become careless. The National Safety Commission has some very helpful tips to help keep you and your family some of the highlights are below.

Travel

In 2015, 355 people died on New Year's Day; 386 on Thanksgiving Day and 273 on Christmas Day, according to *Injury Facts 2017*. Alcohol-impaired fatalities represent about 1/3 of the totals. Some safety tips if needing to drive:

- Use a designated driver, call a car service, like Huber, or a taxi to ensure people make it home safely after a holiday party. Alcohol, prescription, over-the-counter, or illegal drugs **all cause impairment**.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled.
- **Put that cell phone away!** Many distractions can occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit. This is actually a tip that should be followed all year around.
- Properly maintain the vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Be prepared for heavy traffic; and possibly heavy snow depending on where you are traveling.

Decorating

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season.

- 'Angel hair' (a decoration for the Christmas tree) is made from spun glass, and can irritate the eyes and skin. It is advisable to wear gloves when handling or use a non-flammable substitute, like cotton.

- Decorate the tree with kids and pets in mind. Move breakable ornaments, or ornaments with metal hooks closer to the top of the tree.
- Always use a step stool/ladder or ladder. DO NOT stand on chairs or other furniture.
- When hanging lights, make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets; and don't overload the electrical circuits.
- Plants can spruce up holiday decorating, but poisonous plants, including some Poinsettias, must be kept out of the reach of children and pets.
- Protect everyone from unexpected trip and falls by keeping paths clear of decorations, wrapping paper, toys, etc.

Fire Prevention

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December. The National Fire Protection reports increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations causes more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended, in the reach of children, on unstable surfaces, or near trees, curtains, or other flammable items, or sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths, or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once per year

There are also risks with gift-giving, cooking, eating, and storing leftovers. Please [click here](#) for more information on safety awareness, especially around this holiday season.

From our USA family to you and yours, happy holidays.

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