

Happy Holidays from the Birmingham Fire Department!!

*Please be safe as you, your family and your friends share
time together during this Holiday Season!!*

Remember these safety tips:

December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. On average, a candle fire in the home is reported every 34 minutes. Please consider using the electric candles. They look like a real candle and some even have a scent.

If you use real candles:

- Protect the flame with a glass globe.
- Keep candles away from combustibles, especially Christmas trees, decorations and curtains.
- Never leave candles unattended.
- Blow candles out when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Candle flames are like lighters, keep them away from children and pets.

A real Christmas tree ignites easily, burns rapidly and burns hot raising the temperatures in the room above survivable levels very quickly. If you use a real tree we recommend that you cut it yourself so you know it is freshly cut. Some Christmas trees are cut in October and may already be dried out when you buy them.

- Place the tree in a sturdy stand away from exits and heat sources such as fireplaces and heaters.
- Make sure the tree has water. Check the level at least daily, more often if necessary.
- Dispose of a real tree within 4 weeks, sooner if it dries out. Remove it to the outdoors and store it away from the house.
- Check artificial trees to make sure they are fire retardant.
- Always check the decorative lights for frayed or damaged cords and replace them whenever needed.

Fireworks can be exciting and add delight to the season but they are also dangerous. Just because they are legal does not mean they are safe.

- Leave the fireworks to the professionals
- If you choose to do fireworks yourself, make it adults only.
- Fireworks can be unpredictable. Keep children a safe distance away.
- Don't mix alcohol and fireworks. If you've been drinking save the fireworks for another time.

The holidays can get hectic and there is nothing more relaxing than the family around the fireplace with a nice warm glowing fire and a cup of hot chocolate.

- Keep kids and pets a safe distance from the fireplace.
- Never burn wrapping paper or start the fire with flammable liquids.
- Make sure the fire is out before going to bed.
- When cleaning out the ashes, place them in a metal container, never in anything combustible, i.e. a cardboard box or paper bag.
- Place the ashes in the metal container outside, away from the house, not in the garage or a shed. Ashes can feel cool to the touch and still be dangerous days after the fire.

Going to a party for the holidays or maybe hosting one? Have fun!!

- Smokers should smoke outdoors and make sure the butts and ashes are completely extinguished prior to disposal
- Please don't drink and drive.

One mistake can ruin your Holidays....Or worse, maybe the rest of your life.

PLEASE BE SAFE!

Your Birmingham Fire Department