



Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

Stephen Hotwagner

Fire Chief

Michael Lonkar

Fire Prevention Officer

December Fire Safety / Information

Festive celebrations, flickering lights and winter greens are hallmarks of the holiday season, but they also present fire risks that can quickly turn this festive time of year into a devastating one. NFPA works to educate the public about potential fire risks during the holidays, offering tip sheets, videos, and other resources to help everyone safely enjoy the season.

The holidays are here and that means many will be decorating their homes. Hanging up decorations is fun, but keep in mind, holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, blow out all lit candles. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use or both.
- Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.
- If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
- Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly

Winter holiday fire facts

- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in almost half of home Christmas tree fires.
- Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires were started by decorative lights. Eight percent were started by candles.
- Roughly two of every five home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.
- Year round, more than one-third (35 percent) of home decoration fires were started by candles. This jumped to almost half in December when candles started 45 percent of such fires. Cooking started one-fifth (19%) of decoration fires.



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- See more [statistics on winter holiday fires](#).

Here are a few links for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ugeFgJlpi4>

Here are a couple fire safety links for children

<https://www.sparky.org/activities>

https://firecomm.gov.mb.ca/docs/xmas_activities.pdf

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MIDLOTHIAN

14801 S. Pulaski Rd.
Midlothian, IL 60445
708-489-4742 *direct*
mlonkar@villageofmidlothian.org