

# Holiday Safety



**Horry County Fire Rescue**

**Community Safety Guideline**

## Pay Attention to Fire Prevention during the Holiday Season

Each year during the Winter Holiday Season, Horry County Fire Rescue experiences a significant increase in the amount and severity of fires in residential homes across our community. We ask everyone to partner with us to decrease the amount of the fires we respond to, resulting in a decrease in injuries and damage to everyone. Please consider the following safety tips for your family.

- Cooking Fires are the predominant cause of fires across our community, causing the most injuries
- Fires involving smoking related causes result in the greatest amount of fire deaths in our community
- Decorations including trees, greenery, lighting, and candles all increase the likelihood of accidental fires
- Holiday lighting and displays must be properly constructed and set up to ensure the safety of your home
- Remember to establish a Fire Escape Plan when staying overnight in hotels or with family or friends



### Five Quick Tips

- 1.** Only use UL or FM listed lighting and fixtures
- 2.** Only utilize lightning marked as "Outdoor" for yard decorations
- 3.** Cut off all electrical lights and decorations before you go to bed
- 4.** Battery-powered candles are an excellent alternative to traditional candles
- 5.** ALWAYS stay in the kitchen when frying foods

### Christmas Tree Safety

Horry County Fire Rescue urges the use of artificial trees during the Holiday Season. If you do choose a live tree, please consider the following safety tips:

- Consider putting off installing the tree until two weeks before Christmas
- Always place a fresh cut across the base of the trunk, as well as bore a hole in the center to allow water to be absorbed
- Always place in a stand that holds water and fill twice each day
- Close and cover any heat register within six feet of the tree
- Only use UL or FM listed lights on the tree, and always ensure they are "Cool to the Touch"
- Take the tree down immediately after the holiday to reduce the chance of fire

### Last Minute Christmas Presents

- 10-Year lithium battery powered smoke alarms to replace smoke alarms which are over 10 years old
- 5-Pound ABC Fire Extinguishers for the home, auto, boat and RV
- Battery-powered candles to replace the traditional wax ones
- Safety helmets, elbow and knee pads and gloves for the bicycle, scooter, and skate board riders
- Safety ladders for second floor bedrooms

**IF USING WAX BURNING CANDLES, ALWAYS PLACE ON A NON-COMBUSTIBLE SURFACE, AND BLOW OUT TWICE BEFORE LEAVING THE HOME OR GOING TO BED**

**"Smoke Detectors and Exit Drills in the Home...A Plan You Can Live With"**

**For Additional Fire and Life Safety Information or to Schedule a Program - Call 843-915-7066  
Twitter @hcfirerescue [www.horrycountyfirerescue.com](http://www.horrycountyfirerescue.com)**