

# 'Tis the Season to be Careful



**Toronto Fire Services wants you and your family to be safe during this holiday season and here are a few fire safety tips**

## **Christmas Tree Fire Safety**

- Place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, heat vents, radiators, and space heaters, this can dry out the tree causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flames or sparks.
- Before placing the tree in the stand cut approximately 1-2 inches off the bottom.
- Keep the tree base filled with water and check the level daily.
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing lab such as CSA, ULC, etc.
- Unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving your home or when going to sleep.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.

## **Kitchen Fire Safety**

- *Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling food on your stovetop.*
- *Be alert when cooking and keep children away from the stove.*
- *Keep anything that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils and other items away from the top of your stove.*
- *Be extra careful when cooking if you're tired or if you have consumed alcohol.*
- *Avoid wearing loose clothing while cooking. Loose clothing can make contact with heating elements and easily catch fire.*
- *Keep a lid or a baking sheet close by when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, smother the flames by sliding the lid or baking sheet over the pot/pan. Then turn the stove off.*
- *Do NOT move a pot or pan that is on fire.*
- *NEVER put water on a grease fire as this will cause an explosion!*
- *If you have an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the oven door CLOSED.*
- *If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire get outside and call 9-1-1.*

## **Electrical Fire Safety**

- *Check cords for damage such as fraying or nicks. A damaged cord can expose wires and result in potential shock or fire hazard.*
- *Avoid running cords under rugs which can damage the cord and cause a fire.*
- *Extension cords should only be used as a temporary connection. If permanent wiring is required, have additional outlets installed by a licensed electrician.*
- *Extension cords should not be linked together, use an extension cord that is long enough.*
- *Avoid overloading a circuit with octopus outlets.*

## **Candle Safety**

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down, put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Never use water to put out a candle as this will cause an explosion, just cover it.

## **Carbon Monoxide Awareness -- Beat the Silent Killer!**

- *Carbon monoxide is an extremely dangerous gas that you cannot see, smell or taste.*
- *Make sure your home is safe from carbon monoxide poisoning.*
- *If your home has a fuel burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage install a carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to all sleeping areas.*
- *For added protection install a carbon monoxide alarm on every floor of your home.*
- *If your apartment/condo has a fuel burning appliance install a carbon monoxide alarm.*
- *If your building has a service room, a carbon monoxide alarm must be installed in the service room and adjacent to all sleeping areas of any apartment/condo units located above, below or beside that service room. The same rule applies if your building has a garage.*

***Only working CO alarms give you the warning of the presence of this dangerous gas.***

## **Smoke Alarms Save Lives**

- *Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas.*
- *For added protection install smoke alarms in every bedroom.*
- *Test smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.*

***Only working smoke alarms give you the early warning you need to safely escape a fire.***

***Develop and practice a home escape plan!***

***Toronto Fire Services wishes everyone a very safe and happy holiday season***