

## **Winter and Holiday Safety**

FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advise families to take prudent precautions to minimize the risks of fire during the winter and holiday season. Below are some things we can all do to ensure our families safety during the winter months.

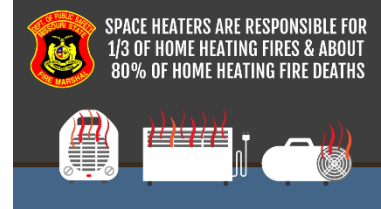
### **Winter Holiday Fire Safety:**

- The top three days of the year for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.
- Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.
- Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.
- Don't link more than three strands of holiday lights. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.
- More than 1 in 5 Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree. Keep your live Christmas tree away from heat sources and room exits.
- Water your live Christmas tree daily to keep it from becoming dry.



### **Preparing Your Home for Winter Safety**

- Test your smoke and CO2 alarms once a month.
- Check that you have smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Be sure to have alarms close to and inside where people are sleeping.
- Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home in the winter.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- If you use a portable heating device (electrical or kerosene) in your home, read and carefully follow the instructions and safety protocols.



For more information, go to:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Winter-holidays>

<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

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