

Tips for the Holidays

December has arrived and it’s time to plan your holiday celebrations. Please take a moment to consider these tips to ensure you, your family and friends stay safe and healthy at every gathering.



Decorate Safely

If you put up a live tree, water it often and toss it out before it gets too dry. When purchasing an artificial tree, make sure it’s fire resistant. No matter what tree you ultimately decide upon, keep it away from your fireplace and other sources of heat.



Fire Safety

Candles are the culprit in one-third of holiday decoration fires according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you choose to light candles, keep them away from flammable decorations, don’t leave them unattended and be sure to extinguish them before you leave the house or go to bed.



Give Safely

Not all toys are created equal. Some can be dangerous, depending on the child’s age. Don’t give toddlers gifts with small parts – like batteries and magnets -- they might want to pop into their mouths. Be careful giving young kids gifts that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. If you’re giving them a bike or a scooter, make sure they have a helmet and other appropriate safety gear.



Travel Safely

If you are hitting the road this holiday season, take a few moments to prepare for the trip. Give your vehicle a complete tune-up, a full tank of gas, tire chains, emergency supplies, an ice scraper, and shovel. Get a good night’s sleep before getting behind the wheel: Drowsy driving is dangerous. Stow your cellphone as it will only distract you. And please, if you are drinking adult beverages, select a designated driver.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

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