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**Emergency Management**

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## **Holiday Fire Safety Information**

### **Facts**

- In 2003, 51 percent of all civilian fire deaths occurred between November and March
- Fire deaths in greater Minnesota outpace those in the metropolitan area by a rate of slightly over two to one.
- A dry Christmas tree can be consumed by fire in an instant, while generating enough heat to ignite an entire room.
- Holidays mean more time socializing with friends and relatives. In 2003, alcohol or other drug use was present or identified as a factor in one-third of all fire deaths and in 60 percent of fire deaths attributed to careless smoking.

### **Safe Behavior**

**Winter holidays can be a joyous time for all, if you practice holiday fire safety at home.**

- Protect neighborhood homes this winter. Keep your nearest fire hydrant clear of snow.
- After holiday parties, check wastebaskets and furniture for smoldering cigarettes.
- Place holiday decorations well away from heat sources. If you use a tree, water it daily.
- Do not burn holiday wrappings in a fireplace; it may cause a chimney fire.
- Pay attention to cooking. If a pan is on fire, cover it with a lid. Water will spread the fire.
- Turn off and unplug lights and decorations before going to bed or leaving your house. Buy electrical decorations that have been approved by a national testing laboratory. Don't overload outlets.

## **Candle Burning Safety Tips:**

- Place candles on a secure surface in sturdy noncombustible holders that won't tip over. Make sure holders are big enough to catch drippings.
- Keep candles away from children and pets. Candles should be out of children's reach.
- Keep candles away from combustible items such as curtains, books, and paper. Remember the "three-foot rule" — anything combustible needs to be kept three feet from a heat source.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids. Do not use a candle for light when fueling a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. A flashlight is a safer option. Don't carry a lit candle.
- Remember to extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave children or pets unattended in a room with a lit candle.

## **Additional Materials**

- National Fire Protection Association, 800-344-3555
- FIRE/EMS/Safety Center, 800-311-3143 or 651-649-5454
- State Fire Marshal Division, 651-215-0500

## **Contact**

- Your local fire department
- Minnesota State Fire Chiefs' Association  
Phone: 800-743-0911
- State Fire Marshal Division  
Phone: 651-215-0500
- Related Web sites:
  - [Minnesota State Fire Chiefs' Association](#)
  - [Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division](#)
  - [Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota](#)
  - [Minnesota State Fire Departments' Association](#)
  - [FIRE/EMS/Safety Center](#)
  - [National Fire Protection Association](#)
  - [American Fire Sprinkler Association](#)
  - [National Fire Sprinkler Association of Minnesota](#)