PUT A FREEZE ON WINTER HOLIDAY FIRES

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Although live Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average, 1 of every 34 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.

2 out of 5 home decoration fires are started by candles.

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 of the fires.

The top 4 days for home candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.

Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit: www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org

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