

FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

10 HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



- 1.) **Beware of Holiday Candles** > Be sure candles are kept away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never use candles to decorate Christmas trees. Avoid using candles during parties. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits.



- 2.) **Test Tree Trimming** > When decorating with lights, be sure to purchase only those labeled by a testing laboratory. For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use. Don't overload electrical outlets, and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to bed. Never put electrical lights on a metal Christmas tree.



- 3.) **Keep Christmas Trees Fresh** > Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits, and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.



- 4.) **Prepare for Holiday Parties** > Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Avoid using candles during parties. If guests will be smoking, provide them with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Designate a non-drinking driver when attending a party. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving.



- 5.) **Inspect Fireplaces** > Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not properly cleaned. Always protect your family and home by using sturdy screen when burning fires.



- 6.) **Be Cautious With Portable and Space Heaters** > Place space heaters at least three feet (one meter) away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets, and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters and be sure everyone knows that drying wet mittens or other clothing over space heaters is a fire hazard.



- 7.) **Watch Your Wood Stoves** > Be sure your wood stove or coal stove bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufactures' recommendations for proper use and maintenance. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned if necessary. Follow the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters.



- 8.) **Cook with Care** > When cooking, do not wear loose fitting clothing. It can be ignited by hot burners. Always turn pot handles in. Don't store items on the stove top; they could catch fire. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition, and turn them off after use. Don't overload electrical outlets, and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires.



- 9.) **Buckle Up** > During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wearing a seat belt may prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision. Ensure that all passengers are also wearing safety belts. Please remember to seat children in the back seat of the car and in approved safety seats if younger than six years old, or according to local law.



- 10.) **Prepare a Winter Storm Plan** > Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots. It's important to have your vehicle winterized before winter storm season.

