



# News Release

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For Release: IMMEDIATE

## PUT FIRE SAFETY AT THE TOP OF YOUR HOLIDAY TO-DO LIST

**(Sunrise, FL)** – The holiday season is underway, and most people will be busy shopping, decorating, and entertaining their holiday guests. Sunrise-Fire Rescue reminds you that there's one very important item that needs to be included on everyone's holiday to-do list: fire-safety.

Home fires are more likely to occur when people become more rushed, distracted, or tired – as happens during the holidays. However, people can avoid potential fire hazards by taking basic precautions:

- **Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.**
- Keep children and pets away from cooking areas, fire places, and lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Instruct guests not to smoke indoors, and to guard lighters and matches from young children.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant, and place them away from windows and doors.
- Consider using **flameless candles**, which look and smell like real candles.
- Keep lit candles 12" away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- **Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Use only **indoor lights on Christmas trees.**
- **Keep a real tree watered, and get rid of it when it becomes dry.**
- Read the manufacturer's instructions for indoor or outdoor use of decorative lights, and for the number of light strands to connect. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- **Test your smoke alarms.**

Finally, be sure to review your home fire escape plan with your guests:

"You may be familiar with your escape plan, but your guests also need to know how to get out and what to do if there is a fire," says Sunrise Fire-Rescue Chief Thomas DiBernardo. "By planning ahead, you can make your holiday gathering a safe and happy one."

For ongoing safety tips and news from Sunrise Fire-Rescue, please visit [www.sunrisefl.gov/fire](http://www.sunrisefl.gov/fire), 'Like' us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @SunriseFRD.

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