



Fire Safety Tips for the Holidays

During the holiday season, the incidence and severity of fire during the winter holiday season increases. The greater use of decorations, natural trees and electric lighting significantly increases the risk of fire.

General Guidelines for Safe Holiday Decorations

- Only use artificial trees, wreaths, garland and greenery labeled as fire resistant or flame retardant and that are UL listed or classified.
- Never used a cut tree in a place of public assembly (apartment or hotel lobbies, restaurants, etc.)
- Do not place decorations in locations that will obstruct the view of exit signs or limit doors, corridors, aisles, stairways or passageways.
- Extension cords used for temporary holiday decorations should be a minimum of 16 gauge wire and properly plugged into a wall outlet.
- The use of candles* (except for religious use) or any type of open flames is prohibited.
- Comply with the Board of Massachusetts Fire Prevention (527 CMR 21) that regulates the use of decorations in public spaces.

Additional Holiday Fire Information:

A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety – A Fact Sheet on Holiday Fire Prevention

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy14.pdf>

Operation Decoration 2005: Tips to Keep the Holiday Home Safe and Bright

<http://www.ul.com/media/newsrel/nr112305b.html>

U.S Fire Administration

Residential Structure Fires During the Winter Holiday Season

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v3i2.pdf>

Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

<http://mass.gov/dfs/osfm/fireprevention/cmr/index.htm>



Video of
[Tree Fire](#)